

Tuzla airport opens with test flight

TUZLA (AP) — A plane carrying 22 tonnes of aid and top U.N. officials flew into Tuzla on Tuesday, the first time the airport has been open for relief flights in almost two years of war. The airport's reopening — a major goal of relief officials — had been blocked for months by Serbs, whose big guns can easily reach the tarmac. The area in northern Bosnia is government-held, and about half of its 800,000 people depend on humanitarian aid. For such a historic occasion, the arrival of the first fixed-wing U.N. aircraft appeared routine. "Everything was O.K." said Major Gunnar Karlsson, at U.N. headquarters in Tuzla, shortly after the plane touched down at 9:31 a.m. (0831 GMT). The flight carried chief U.N. envoy Yakuhi Atassi, French General Bertrand de Lapresle, commander of U.N. forces, and other U.N. officials. An airlift to Sarajevo has kept residents of the besieged Bosnian capital fed for much of the 23-month-old war.

Volume 18 Number 5568

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1994, SHAWWAL II, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Israel, PLO close to deal

TUNIS (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israeli negotiators have hammered out a draft accord for an armed presence to protect Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which could revive their stalled peace talks. "PLO and diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

Samir Ghosheh, a member of the PLO's ruling Executive Committee, said the agreement could be finalised during a meeting in Cairo on Thursday between PLO and Israeli negotiators.

If ratified by the Israeli government, the accord would meet a key PLO demand for returning to negotiations halted after the Feb. 25 massacre of dozens of Muslim worshippers by a Jewish settler in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Sources in Egypt said talks would be held Wednesday in Cairo between PLO representative Nabil Shaath and an Israeli negotiator, perhaps General Amnon Shahak.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will be in Cairo then for a meeting of donor nations which have pledged to aid Palestinian autonomy, according to PLO sources.

The result of Dr. Shaath's talks with the Israelis will determine if there will be a meeting Thursday between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres, said the sources. They termed the possibility of such a meeting "highly likely."

The sources said that under the tentative agreement, Israel will accept a lightly-armed, U.N.-sponsored international presence involving 300 to 500

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Ross pays brief visit; Anani describes outcome as positive

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross paid a brief visit to Amman Tuesday evening during which he held talks with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Information Minister Jawad Anani on the Middle East peace process and the resumption of Arab-Israeli negotiations in April as proposed by Washington.

While Jordan has welcomed Friday's U.N. Security Council resolution condemning the Feb. 25 massacre of dozens of Muslim worshippers by a Jewish settler in Hebron, it has said that it was awaiting consultations with the other Arab parties involved in the peace talks before announcing a decision on resuming the negotiations, which were suspended following the massacre.

In the meantime, two key issues expected to figure high



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Tuesday meets with U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross (centre) (Petra photo)

sponded to Jordanian concerns over these two issues.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that Mr. Ross, in his talks with Prime Minister Majali, stressed the need to revive the peace process.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Dr. Anani, who is also Minister of State for foreign affairs.

(Continued on page 5)

Pregnant woman killed in Hebron

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (R) — Israeli soldiers shot dead a pregnant Palestinian woman on Tuesday in the West Bank town of Hebron, witnesses said.

Anger over the mosque massacre in the town last month exploded in widespread clashes.

Hospital sources identified the dead woman as Hunduk Zahade, 32, Palestinian sources said she was shot in her home as she watched clashes outside through her window.

Witnesses in Hebron said thousands of angry Palestinians took to the streets chant-

ing "Allahu Akbar." Some stoned Israeli troops who have maintained a heavy presence in the town since the massacre on February 25.

Palestinians threw petrol bombs at a convoy of Jewish settlers passing through the town of Halhoul, next to Hebron, on their way to the settlement of Kiryat Arba on the outskirts of Hebron, a settler source said.

The bombs exploded but there were no immediate reports of wounded.

Hospitals said at least five Palestinians were wounded by army gunfire in Hebron.

The town has been extremely tense since Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein gunned down dozens of worshippers at Hebron's Ibrahim Mosque.

The army has kept the 110,000 Arab residents under military curfew since the massacre and there have been almost daily clashes.

In the occupied West Bank town of Nablus, troops shot and wounded six Palestinians, one of them a six-month-old girl, hospital sources said. In Gaza, one Palestinian was shot and wounded in clashes.

The delay was caused by American insistence on deleting parts of the draft and differences with the PLO on the phrasing and wording of the document.

His Majesty King Hussein said in a recent interview that Jordan was not a party to the consultations over the draft and noted that he had launched a personal effort to come up with a joint Arab stand vis-a-vis the issue a few hours before the Security Council adopted the resolution.

The Lower House of Parliament condemns the American position and calls on the parliaments of Arab and Islamic countries as well as those of countries which support just causes to protest against the American stand," the statement said.

"The process is continuing," said a senior official, referring to a proposal that the inspection of goods coming to Jordan be moved to Aqaba port rather than the Tiran Straits.

The proposal, tabled during a January visit to the U.S. of His Majesty King Hussein, was reportedly received positively

The Lower House said it "deeply regretted the weak coordination among the Arab delegations at the world body" leading to the adoption of the resolution which did not satisfy

(Continued on page 5)

Deputies urge government to link peace talks with Aqaba siege

By Suhaib Obeidat and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday called on the government not to resume its peace negotiations with Israel until the U.S.-led blockade on the Red Sea port of Aqaba is actually lifted and the lifting is announced at the U.N. Security Council.

The call by the legislature came shortly before U.S. Middle East coordinator Denis Ross arrived in Amman as part of Washington's preparations to resume the next round of Arab-Israeli peace talks.

We request the government not to go back to the negotiations table until the blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba is actually lifted and the lifting is announced at the U.N. Security Council," it said.

During a session of Parliament earlier in the day, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali told the lawmakers that the government was pursuing all efforts to lift the blockade of Aqaba.

Dr. Majali said he had met with U.S. Ambassador Wesley Egan Jr. Tuesday morning to lodge a protest against the continuing blockade at Aqaba.

The lawmakers' statement said: "The Jordanian Parlia-

House decries 'change' in U.S. stand on Jerusalem

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament on Tuesday condemned the U.S. abstention from voting on references to the status of Jerusalem and other Israeli-occupied territories in Friday's U.N. Security Council resolution condemning the Feb. 25 massacre at a mosque in the West Bank town of Hebron.

In a statement issued on the last day of its first regular session, the House said the U.S. abstention during voting on Resolution 904 signalled a "clear change in the American stand," which had hitherto viewed Jerusalem as well as other Palestinian territories as occupied.

"The Lower House of Parliament condemns the American position and calls on the parliaments of Arab and Islamic countries as well as those of countries which support just causes to protest against the American stand," the statement said.

"The process is continuing," said a senior official, referring to a proposal that the inspection of goods coming to Jordan be moved to Aqaba port rather than the Tiran Straits.

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(Continued on page 5)

Majali government gearing up for changes in makeup and perception

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, three months after securing a fragile vote of confidence from the Lower House of Parliament, is apparently ready for a fundamental change in its makeup and image.

Several factors have contributed to what is termed as "growing uneasiness" in political circles and among cabinet members themselves, most important of which is that the Majali cabinet has so far downsized its role to that of a largely caretaker government with a one-item agenda of supporting the Middle East peace talks.

These critics cite the cabinet's inability to mobilise

popular support behind the peace process and explain its implications on Jordan as one of the more damaging of its failings. They maintain that while the government has tried its best to progress in the Arab-Israeli negotiations, it has failed to articulate that role and gain the backing of the people.

The government's lack of political colour, these critics add, does not excuse its apparent lack of "political strategy," especially in the way its movements and decisions on the local front are portrayed in the official media and press in general.

Perhaps this last point is where the government agrees with the critics most. A senior cabinet official sum-

med it up by saying that the "image of the government among the public, as it was created by the government itself, is unfair."

The official admits that the government has yet to draw up a plan of action for its internal policies and a media strategy that would serve to present it to the public in the proper context. "There is a growing feeling among cabinet members lately that there is a need to draw up a strategy."

Such a strategy, the official admits, can only come with "reassessing the situation and arming ourselves with new makeup for the cabinet."

He said, however, that the shift in the government perception and makeup from what people have come to

know as a "caretaker government" to a full-fledged executive authority is slowly coming together and that a cabinet reshuffle will only come when the perception of the role of the government has been fully worked out.

In its response to critics, the Majali government is careful to distance itself from the image it carried into the confidence session in December.

With a limited reshuffle to back him, Dr. Majali sought the confidence of the House, having dissolved the 11th parliament, carried out a controversial amendment to the election law and bogged down by charges that his cabinet was affiliated to a two-year-old political party established by his brother

(Continued on page 5)

S. Lebanon death toll climbs

NABATIYEH (AP) — Guerrillas fired Katyusha rockets on Israel's northern Galilee panhandle Tuesday, sharpening fears of a major blowup in South Lebanon, security sources said. The attack was mounted as South Lebanon 800,000 people mourned the deaths of two school children and a third civilian killed in an Israeli bombardment the day before. A general state was widely observed in the region. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said two projectiles landed about three kilometres inside Israel at 1:30 p.m. (1130 GMT) and three crashed in an Israeli-occupied border enclave in South Lebanon. They said the rockets were fired from the Odele area that faces the western sector of Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone." There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. But the security sources noted that a Palestinian group had launched a rocket attack against Israel from the same area on Feb. 16. Israel's northern commander, Major General Yitzhak Mordechai, confirmed the rocket barrage.

go back to their schools.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan who is accompanying King Hussein, the emir of the southern oil-producing region of Shawwa, said the visit to Oman constitutes a qualitative leap in Arab-Arab relations.

In a telephone interview with Jordan Television, Mr. Hassan said Jordanian-Omani relations "get stronger by time and are an example to be followed in Arab relations."

The King's visit to Qatar aims to give a new dimension to the good and distinguished bilateral relations which are continuously developing," said Mr. Hassan.

He said relations between King Hussein and the emir of Qatar are "a basic foundation for Jordanian-Qatari relations."

The visit, he said, "comes within the framework of continued consultations and coordination between the two leaders and officials of the two countries."

King continues talks in Oman, begins visit to Qatar today

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein today starts a visit to Qatar where he will hold talks with Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, the emir of Qatar, on the situation in the region, means of mending Arab rifts and the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

On Tuesday, the King continued his talks in Oman with Sultan Qaboos Ben Saeed on bilateral relations and international affairs.

King Hussein, who arrived in Oman Monday, was expected to have also discussed with Sultan Qaboos the situation in Yemen and duties assigned to a joint Jordanian-Omani military commission supervising the implementation of military aspects of the Yemeni reform and reconciliation agreement signed in Amman on Feb. 20.

The military committee said Tuesday rival Yemeni parties agreed to pull out their troops from a provincial capital, Reu-

ter reported.

The committee, formed to disengage rival Yemeni army units, told residents of Ataq, capital of the southern oil-producing region of Shawwa, that an agreement had been reached to withdraw troops from and around the city.

"An agreement has been reached by all parties concerned to withdraw all signs of military presence from Ataq and return all groups around the city to their (respective) bases," the committee said in a statement.

Jordanian, Omani and Yemeni officers along with the American and French military attaches in Yemen formed the committee after the country's two main political rivals signed the reconciliation agreement in Amman on Feb. 20.

The military committee called on Ataq residents to resume normal life — urging shops to reopen, employees to return to work and students to

also protesting the introduction of the levy.

The House did not adopt any action on the Financial Committee's recommendation except hearing it being read out by its rapporteur, Sa'ad Hayel Srour.

The government is expected to recommend to His Majesty King Hussein that an extraordinary Parliament session be convened to debate and approve pending key legislation, including the draft sales tax law and another draft law related to insurance companies.

In a letter of intent signed early this year, the government undertook to introduce the sales tax as of March, but disputes over the levy stalled the final draft of the legislation until late February, making it impossible for the lawmakers

(Continued on page 5)

Parliament recesses; fate of key sales tax law uncertain

to debate and endorse it.

The sales tax is part of the economic recovery programme prescribed for Jordan by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which helped the Kingdom reschedule part of its foreign debts, which stood at \$8.3 billion in 1989.

The Kingdom brought down the debts to \$6.6 billion by the end of 1993 through partial settlements and write-offs as well as rescheduling at favourable terms. Further rescheduling requires an obligatory IMF certification, which hinges on introduction of the sales tax.

The IAF, a vehement opponent of the entire IMF programme, said in a statement that its boycott of Tuesday's session was directly related to the sales tax.

Leftist political activists and union leaders held a sit-in outside the Parliament building.

As the House held its last session and heard its Financial Committee's recommendation that the draft law be endorsed with some amendments, the powerful Islamic Action Front (IAF) boycotted the session in protest against the draft legislation.

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Middle East News

U.S. congressman proposes development plan with part of aid to Egypt and Israel

WASHINGTON (USA) — U.S. Representative Tim Penny has introduced legislation in the U.S. Congress to establish a Middle East development initiative and has proposed that funds for such an initiative be diverted from U.S. aid to Israel and Egypt.

Specifically, the Middle East Peace development initiative, which would be conducted by the State Department if passed, "would serve as a conduit for U.S. bilateral and multilateral development assistance to the entire Middle East region," Mr. Penny explained.

"Economic development in the Middle East must be viewed in a regional sense — as opposed to simply focusing on Gaza or Jericho — in order to contribute to long-term peace in this volatile part of the world," he stressed.

Such an initiative would be funded at about \$260 million a year, a sum Mr. Penny conceded, is not nearly enough for that region's development needs. However, because of U.S. budgetary constraints and the competing demands for foreign assistance, Mr. Penny said \$260 million would have to be a "starting point" for such an initiative.

Again underscoring budgetary constraints, Mr. Penny said the funds for the initiative

would have to come from the existing foreign assistance programme, i.e., from U.S. aid to Israel and Egypt.

"In my opinion, it only makes sense to transfer funds from the annual bilateral military assistance provided to Israel and Egypt to the Middle East Development Initiative Fund," he said. This diversion of funds, he added, would amount to a five per cent reduction in 1994 U.S. foreign assistance levels to the two countries.

Mr. Penny stressed that "only those countries or organisations which are committed to the peace process would be — or should be — eligible for funds under this initiative."

Noting that crisis of his legislation say the Middle East peace process is too fragile for any discussion of reducing U.S. assistance to Israel and Egypt, Mr. Penny argued that economic development is vital to the security of the region.

"We must send ... a strong signal that the United States is committed to the issue of economic development in the entire region and that this issue is just as important as the issue of military security for one side or another," Mr. Penny said.

The United States must take the lead "to make sure that, at

the very least, the people of the region have hope that their plight will not be ignored after the treaties are signed and the ambassadors have been exchanged. They need to have hope that along with peace comes prosperity," he underscored.

Mr. Penny conceded that the legislation will not likely pass this year. At this point, he said, he has received no co-sponsors for the legislation, indicating a lack of support, and that the response from the State Department has been "similar."

The lack of support notwithstanding, Mr. Penny sees a future for his proposal: "I think we are going to get there."

What is important, he said, is that "somebody should put the idea out there. I am not expecting that it is going to happen overnight, but there have been a lot of good ideas that have been rejected at the outset."

However, since the 43-year-old lawmaker is retiring next year, he will probably not see his legislation through, if it ever is passed by the congress.

Mr. Penny is chairman of the House Agriculture subcommittee on Foreign Agriculture and Hunger and serves on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Settler wanted for murder in U.S. buried in W. Bank

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (AP) — About 200 mourners surrounded by a phalanx of Israeli army and police rode into the heart of this embattled city Monday to attend the nighttime funeral of an American immigrant wanted in the U.S. in connection with a murder.

The funeral procession for Roetelle Manning wound through the adjacent settlement of Kiryat Arba, a centre of Jewish extremism in the occupied West Bank, and stopped at the grave of mosque killer Baruch Goldstein for prayers.

It is a great honour for the people of Kiryat Arba to have such a righteous man buried here," said settler Ariele Bar-Yosef, 36, holding up a large sign mourning the passing of Mrs. Manning. "Bob Goldstein's grave has become a shrine."

Some of the settlers wore large yellow stars, of the kind that the Nazis forced Jews to wear during World War II, to protest government actions in banning the anti-Arab Kach and Kahane lives movements and jailing its leaders.

"This government is reminiscent of the Nazis. They haven't put us in ovens yet but they have started the process of selection, separation and imprisonment without representation," said Reuven Ben-David, who travelled from a northern West Bank settlement for the funeral.

Both Mrs. Manning and Goldstein, who opened fire at the Ibrahim Mosque on Feb. 25, killing dozens of Palestinians, had ties to the Kach movement founded by assassinated Rabbi Meir Kahane.

The Arabs in Hebron have been under curfew since the mosque massacre, forbidden to move outdoors, especially at night. Hundreds of troops from the army and paramilitary border police deployed in Hebron to head off any clashes during the funeral.

Before the cortège left

Prosecutors have argued that the Mannings were hired to send the bomb by William Ross, 57, extradited from Canada in December. Mr. Ross had a real estate dispute with Mr. Wilkerson's boss.

Her husband Robert, 43, was sentenced Feb. 7 to life in prison by a U.S. district court in Los Angeles, for conspiracy to murder in the same case. He was deported last July, after a lengthy court battle and an apparent suicide attempt by swallowing a large quantity of pills the first time he was to leave Israel.

Legal expert Moshe Negbi told Israel Radio that Lior's ruling violated at least two laws against incitement, both punishable by imprisonment.

The NRP officials had come to Hebron to lend support to the 450 Jews living among the city's 110,000 Arabs, Israel's government has considered evacuating some of the Jewish settlers to coax the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) back to peace talks following the massacre.

Stern said he admired the settlers for staying in place, but scolded them for not conde-

ming the massacre and those who have supported Great Stein, like Lior. He then read the ruling out loud.

In scenes broadcast on Israeli Television, other NRP officials shouted at Stern for laundering the right-wing's dirty linen in public.

Lior stirred controversy two years ago when he ruled that it was permissible to conduct medical experiments on captured "terrorists." That ruling, kept Lior from being appointed to Israel's highest religious court.

Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur consulted with Lior and other settler leaders last week on whether Israel should lift a curfew imposed on Hebron's Palestinians to contain violence in the wake of the massacre.

Rabbis usually issue rulings as a response to inquiries from parishioners. Stern did not say whether he knew who, if anyone, had asked Lior whether it is permissible to kill Arab innocents.

Another Kiryat Arba settler, Ilan Tor, this week told a commission of inquiry into the massacre that Lior had recently ruled that Goldstein's

violated religious law — but only because the Ibrahim Mosque is holy to Jews.

Also Monday, both of Israel's chief rabbis appealed to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to allow several Jewish extremists placed in administrative detention after the massacre to spend the Passover holiday at home.

"They have not committed a crime, they have not sinned," Rabbi Israel Lau, chief rabbi to Israel's Ashkenazi Jews, told Israel army radio. "They are incarcerated more as a warning... if one could allow Jews like these to sit with their family on the holiday of freedom, that would be a good thing."

Police Minister Moshe Shahal told Israel army radio there was virtually no chance the extremists would be allowed home for Passover, which begins Saturday night.

Rabbi sanctioned killing of Arabs before massacre

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The chief rabbi of the settlement where Baruch Goldstein lived issued a religious ruling just weeks before the Hebron massacre saying that killing innocents was permissible as an act of revenge, a senior political official said Monday.

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Princess Basma calls on Arab women to re-examine their roles in development

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, Tuesday urged Arab women to re-examine their roles in socio-economic development and form a working mechanism that keeps in step with international, regional and local changes.

The world is currently witnessing a stage in which much stress is being placed on peace, development and human rights issues and women in Jordan and the Arab World are called on to promote their role and rise to the challenge, said the Princess.

In an address at the opening session of a meeting by the Permanent Bureau of the General Federation of Arab Women (GFAW) in Amman, Princess Basma underlined the importance of Arab women's gatherings at the regional and pan-Arab levels to draft a federative plan to be applied now, until the year 2000.

With reference to women's activities in Jordan, the Princess said women here have succeeded in forming a national strategy envisaged as an umbrella for women's activities



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday. Permanent Bureau of the General Federation of Arab Women held in Amman (Petra photo)

formed to help implement the strategy involved in legislative, economic, educational and social matters, adding that there is also a committee serving as a liaison with Jordanian women.

Princess Basma said several sub-committees that have been

will review several reports summing up the general GFAW's activities and the completion of the federation's plan until the year 2000.

Several cabinet members and representatives of Arab diplomatic missions in Amman were among Tuesday's attendees.

Deputy urges government to apply public safety measures swiftly

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Deputy Samir Habashneh (Karak) urged the government to take serious steps towards applying safety measures in Jordan's factories, major firms and various organisations to ensure public safety.

The lawmaker said he hoped that the recommendations made by Minister of Interior, Salameh Hammad at a conference held to address public safety concerns would be "on the way of application."

In a question to the minis-

ter, Deputy Habashneh inquired about safety measures in establishments, "especially following the Safeway incident."

The fire that broke out in the Safeway supermarket/department store and the damages incurred proved that safety measures in the country were "neglected" and that tens of citizens faced death due to this "negligence."

Mr. Hammad's answer focused on results of the public safety conference held last month and attended by Deputy Prime Minister Ma'an

tion, ignoring such regulations. He said the country lacks specialists in that area.

The deputy expressed dis-appointment that citizens were not informed of the causes of the Safeway fire, although it is "our right as citizens and parliamentarians to know who or what was behind it," he stressed.

The draft law on public safety regulations is expected to be submitted to the Lower House to be discussed in its extraordinary session, while parliamentary sources said is expected to convene next month.

He said a special committee has been formed to draft recommendations concerning safety measures and public awareness of the issue's importance, and that the draft legislation would be passed to the Lower House of Parliament after it is written.

The minister added that despite strict regulations concerning public safety in organisations, some establish-

Japan's Kubo quartet to take bow to strings at RCC

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the Embassy of Japan Tuesday, April 5 will present "a unique musical experience," performed by the Kubo Classical Quartet for Strings, according to an embassy statement.

The quartet is named after Yoko Kubo (1st violin), director of the Kurashiki Music Festival and professor at the Tokyo College of Music. A renowned violinist, Ms. Kubo started her formal study on the violin at the age of eight in Tokyo with Shinkichi Murayama, and moved on to study under Jeanne Isuard and Hideo Saito, professors at the Toho Gakuen College of Music.

During her career, she studied under famous teachers like René Benetti and Joseph Calvet in Paris (1963), and Joseph Szigeti in Switzerland (1967).

She worked as a soloist with such celebrated conductors as Kyrril Kondrashin, Jan van Osterloo and Lorin Maazel.

Ms. Kubo made her debut in 1962, gaining third prize in the Tchaikovsky International Violin Competition. Performing in Europe and the United States, she won prizes at the Paganini International Music Competition, the Long-Tribaud International Violin Competition and Kryz International Competition.

Ko Iwasaki (cello) gradu-



Yoko Kubo on first violin

ated with honours from the Toho Conservatoire in 1963, where he studied cello under Hideo Saito. He soon appeared as a soloist with one of Japan's leading orchestras, including the Tokyo Symphony. In 1964, he went to the United States on a Fullbright Scholarship and studied at the Juilliard School.

During 1966 he made his New York debut in the Young Artist Concert Series. That same year, Mr. Iwasaki studied with Pablo Casals in Puerto Rico.

In 1972, he made his European debut with the London Symphony Orchestra with André Previn conducting.

During his career, Mr. Iwasaki has won many competitive honours, including: second prize in the Casado International Cello Competition; second prize in the International Competition (Munich, Germany) for Cello and Piano Duos; and a bronze medal in the 1970 International Tchaikovsky Competition.

Before coming to Jordan, the quartet will play in Strasbourg.

Their programme in Amman will include works by Mozart, Saburo Takada, Wolf, and Schubert. The performance will be at the Royal Cultural Centre.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- * Jordanian-Iraqi contemporary exhibition by over 80 artists at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra 9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m. (Tel. 644451).
- * Exhibition of heritage (Jordanian fashions, wooden sculptures, fresh and dried flowers, and cards) at the University of Jordan.
- * Exhibition by Syrian artist Abdul Manan Shamma, Khalid Almuz, and Mamdouh Kashlan at Ah'ad Art Gallery.
- * Exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Jordanian sculptor Sameer Tabbaa. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hammed Shoman Foundation in Jahlal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).
- * Exhibition entitled "Writers Do Draw" by Jamal Naji, Ibrahim Nasrallah, and Farouq Wadi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Plastic art exhibition by Syrian artists Abdul Qader Azzouz and Aoun Al Droubi at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- * Drama entitled "A Very Symbolic Play" at the main theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Co.

INVITES

Contractors to participate in tender No. 3/94 for supply of spare parts for its Mercedes trucks type (L&LS 2624) as per parts numbers and quantities attached with terms of tender.

Contractors wishing to bid for tender can obtain copies of tender documents from the company Al Qastal — Queen Alia Int'l. Airport, Amman for a non-refundable fee of JD 120.000 (one-hundred and twenty Jordanian dinars) per copy bearing official documents proving their registration in records of trading agents or bokers. Offers should be submitted not later than 2:30 p.m. (Jordan local time) on Monday the 25th of April/1994.

Chairman General Manager

SSC to sell off most resthouses

AMMAN (Petra) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) has decided to sell all but two of the tourist resthouses it has been operating because of losses which amounted to JD 2.4 million by the end of 1993, SSC Director General Mohammad Hourani announced Tuesday.

Mr. Hourani attributed the losses at the resthouses to an inflexible government-style bureaucratic system, incapable of decision-making.

He said the resthouse at Mudawarah near the Saudi Arabian border has already been sold and arrangements are underway to sell the Dibbin, Zay, Azraq, Karak, Madaba, Ma'an, Ishafeina, Rum, Ramtha, Ghor Hadithah, Grandal, Ras Al

Naqab, H-4, and Al Omari resthouses. The SSC will maintain control of the Petra and Jerash establishments.

The SSC owns three hotels which last year netted a JD 2.5 million profit and the corporation intends to maintain control of these businesses. Mr. Hourani said.

He added that on the whole, the SSC last year earned profits on its investments in various businesses at the rate of 7.4 per cent of the total invested capital, up from 7.1 per cent in 1992.

Referring to the total capital accumulated from premiums since the SSC started operations in January 1980, Mr. Hourani said it amounted to JD571 million by the end of 1993, plus JD 191 million in

profits on investments.

He said the corporation has paid out JD 134 million since 1980 in pensions, compensation, occupational injury insurance, medicines and other expenses in addition to JD 47 million for administrative costs.

Highlighting the areas of SSC investments, Mr. Hourani said that the largest sum, JD 257.7 million (45.6 per cent) is deposited in banks, and the rest of the capital has been earning profits from its investments in agricultural, industrial and other sectors.

According to Mr. Hourani, the corporation has a total of JD 650,000 invested in four companies which are operating at a loss with no hope of recovery, adding that an addi-

tional JD 2.3 million is invested in four companies currently facing difficulties which could be handled in cooperation with other shareholders.

Saying that the present bureaucratic system places many obstacles in the path of business, Mr. Hourani explained that for every investment or purchase it makes, the SSC must secure the consent of a committee which takes great deal of time in assessing the benefits of new enterprises and thus delays or results in lost opportunities to make investments.

Mr. Hourani urged that the SSC operations be free of government-style bureaucratic control in order to boost its services and ensure more profits.

Course focuses on aerosols conversion

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Activity Centre and its regional office for West Asia Tuesday opened a three-day event in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the environment designed as a regional training course on aerosol conversion and the use of alternative industrial substances to those considered harmful to the ozone layer.

Fouad Kanbour, senior environmental affairs officer at UNEP, said: "We are all here today, united by a common cause, to deal with the threat of ozone depletion."

Dr. Kanbour, addressing about 60 delegates and experts from Arab and foreign countries, said the depletion of the ozone layer is associated with an increase in the cases of skin cancer and eye cataracts, and a deterioration in crop productivity and the distribution in the marine chain.

"It is known that ozone depletion will continue and reach its highest level around the year 2000," he said.

Dr. Kanbour warned of the dangers that are facing human lives. "Anything we may do right now is already 10 years late. This might give you an idea of the time pressure we all have upon us," he added.

According to Dr. Kanbour, the main objective of the meeting is to provide information on the latest technologies and related safety issues in the aerosols sector in order to promote the formulation of investment projects to phase out ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) in the industrial sector.

Dr. Kanbour further explained that the information provided in the three-day

course will prove that there are no good technical or economical reasons to keep producing aerosols with ODSs.

"We expect that most of the countries that are still producing aerosols with ODSs will be convinced to change over and to initiate action plans to assist the aerosol industry to phase out ODSs in a more expeditious and cost-effective manner," said Dr. Kanbour.

Ghazi Odai, assistant director of the Department of Environment's chief division of air pollution at the ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, said the reason Jordan hosted this first regional training course was because Jordan became a signatory to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol regarding the preservation of the ozone layer.

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Mr. Odai said there was erosion to the ozone layer over the north and south poles which is causing harm to the environments of nearby countries.

"Ultraviolet rays are dangerous if they pass through the 20-kilometre ozone layer and could harm humans and nature," he added.

Presentations by other participants included Mexico and Egypt's experiences in converting from harmful chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)

to hydrocarbons, alternates and aerosol valve and can technology, and the transport of hydrocarbon propellants.

Today's activities will include presentations by delegates on a developing country's (India's) perspective, conversion formulation technology, and hydrocarbon propellant fillings. In the afternoon session, topics to be discussed include aerosol machinery considerations, storage of hydrocarbon propellants, open-air filling of hydrocarbon propellants, not in-kind substitutes, hydrocarbon propellant purification, assistance available from multilateral funds, and governmental support.

On Thursday, delegates will pay a visit to the Household and Toiletries Manufacturing Company in Irbid, and in the evening they will conclude their meeting with a round table discussion of recommendations, questions and solutions.

AL-ISRA UNIVERSITY

The Department of Continuing Education and Community Development Of AL - ISRA University announces The holding of the following training programmes in :

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From 9th April - 18th May 1994, for 24 hours, Mon.. and Wed., 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Fees JD 60.

Teaching Arabic to non-native speakers.

From 26 Mar., - 15th June 1994 , for 48 hours, four hours per week, Mon., and Wed., 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Fees JD 100

Teaching German Language.

From 16th April - 17 May 1994, for 28 hours, six hours, per week, Sat., Mon., and Wed., 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Fees JD 40

Those interested may register at the department in the University HQs
For more information please call

08/41710 - 08/41830 - 08/41551
Ext. : 206 - 210 Fax : 08/41505



Parliament ends session

(Continued from page 1)

"We are shocked by the recommendation of the (House) Financial Committee that the draft law be listed on the House agenda for today," said the statement.

The front said it was boycotting the session in "protest against the means that the government resorted to in recruiting the media to promote this project without giving the other point of view the chance to make itself heard by the citizens."

The front called on all political parties, unions and activists to "continue in their stand against this project and work to reject it."

The IAF warned the government against introducing the sales tax through issuing a temporary law during the parliamentary recess.

House Speaker Taher Masri said constitutionally, the government could not resort to such a measure "because once a draft law is referred to Parliament it becomes a parliamentary property."

Outside the parliament's gates, about 200 people, mainly members of professional unions and leftist political activists, staged a three-hour sit-in protesting against the draft sales tax law.

The silent protesters waved banners and placards and distributed to passers-by and de-

puties leaflets denouncing the proposed law.

"The people say no to the sales tax," and "yes to the Jordanian people and no to the International Monetary Fund (IMF)," read the protest banners.

In the leaflets, the unionists argued that the sales tax "is only part of a colonialist package forced upon us by the IMF."

The parliament gates were closed and a strong police force kept a relatively distant watch as the protesters dispersed without any recorded incident of violence.

The protest was a reaffirmation that government efforts to enlist popular support for the sales tax had not borne much fruit.

Political activists and unionist argue that the tax will lead to increased price in the market despite government assertions that the levy will only replace the consumption tax which went into force in 1992 and that the expected revenues from the sales tax in fiscal 1994 is the same as that of 1993.

Furthermore, the government also points out that most basic food items, medicine and education material are exempt from the levy and that the sales tax itself is part of a comprehensive reform package for the Kingdom's taxation structure.

The main amendments that the House Financial Commi-

House assails U.S. stand

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan, which saw Washington's posture as paving the way for the eventual recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Since 1967, the U.S. stand on the occupied territories had remained constant based on the rejection of Israeli occupation of the land until Friday's vote, which cast doubts on the U.S. intentions.

The American stand was viewed as an intentional precedent-setting move to eventually change its rejection of Israel's unilateral annexation of East Jerusalem.

The King said he was seeking an explanation from Washington whether there was any shift in the U.S. stand.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said after the vote that Washington did not want to prejudice the outcome of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations by adopting any position on issues involved in the conflict.

Officials said Tuesday that the issue was to be raised during talks with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, who was paying a

brief visit to Amman late Toes-day.

"We hope to get some explanation of the American stand and what its abstention means," said one highly-placed official (see separate story).

Tuesday's parliament statement also expressed regret that Resolution 904, adopted after "three weeks of delays and procrastination ... only condemned the massacre, carried out by Zionist settlers aided by the occupation forces, and did not condemn the Israeli authorities responsible for the massacre."

The statement called on Arab leaders to put aside their differences and convene a summit conference to discuss the "situation of the Palestinian people living under Zionist occupation" and to "shoulder their responsibilities towards Palestinians who are subjected to consistent campaigns of genocide."

The House voiced appreciation "of the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and their commitment to their land and their rights" and reaffirmed Jordan's support for the Palestinian struggle for liberation.

Majali government gearing up for changes

(Continued from page 1)

confidence of the House, present it with the budget and then follow up on demands for policy statements leaving it little time to initiate ideas rather than react.

But having conceded that the House's lack of "priorities" had contributed to the government's "reactionary" role, some critics also charge that the government is responsible for its inability to impose its "weight" on parliament.

The weight of a government determines its value," the former official said, adding that it is more imperative to "appear in control, especially when there is democracy."

"Over 50 members of the House are new and had no or very little experience in public life," another former official said. "There has to be a system to educate them on their role and rights and this can only come from the government."

The senior government official, who is close to the premier's thinking, says the government had to carry through with a new policy that did not go down well with the newly-elected parliament and contributed to the tense relations with the House by excluding parliamentarians from cabinet posts.

Critics, who believe that the government's tense relations with Parliament epitomises its lack of understanding of democratic relations between the legislative and executive authorities in the country, say this problem will continue to plague Dr. Majali unless a clear formula is found to ensure "a common agenda" between them.

"If the premier wants to indoctrinate the constitutional separation of authorities by excluding parliamentarians from government posts, it does not mean that there cannot be a common agenda,"

an observer of the democratisation process said.

Explaining that even in the U.S. where there is total separation of authorities between Congress and the executive authority, "the president has a common agenda with his party members because he is either a Democrat or a Republican and his congressmen will usually support his policies."

"The situation would have been different had independent presidential hopeful Ross Perot won the presidency in 1992," the observers, who did not want to be identified by name said charging that Dr. Majali has "turned himself into a Ross Perot."

"Dr. Majali should make his job easier by encouraging the deputies, apolitical as they may be, to adhere to their parliamentary blocs and develop agendas and from there try to find a common agenda with the government."

"If he did that he would be able to secure the necessary votes to pass legislation and policies through the House with minimum interference from outside."

But this policy, criticised by politicians over the past four years of democracy as "policy of appeasement" has its arch enemies in Dr. Majali's cabinet, a senior official, in an interview with the Jordan Times, described it as "cowardice of democracy."

In fact, the official says, this government feels that it has had to deal with the "what was thrown to us by the pre-democracy era and the cowardice of democracy" contributing to some criticism that it is undemocratic.

He said that one of the most controversial "leftovers" was the sales tax imposed on the Kingdom by dictates of the economic adjustment programme prescribed by the International Monetary Fund.

On this particular charge,

tee has recommended to the draft law are:

"A lowering of a general sales tax on most items to seven per cent from the 10 per cent suggested by the government."

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The main amendments that the House Financial Commi-

Masri gives C plus to deputies

(Continued from page 1)

issues.

Earlier, the House held its last session where a Royal decree ending the regular session was read out and then the House handled a number of items on the agenda. It passed the draft municipalities law and referred to its judicial committee a number of laws.

The rapporteur of the Financial Committee, Deputy Sa'ad Hayel Sour, read out the committee's report on the draft sales tax law and the amendments made to it by the committee.

Speaker Masri told deputies that discussion of the draft law would have to be postponed. "This is an important law which needs a long time to debate and we do not have that," Mr. Masri said, but did not specify whether an extraordinary session will be held to discuss this and other pending matters.

Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies boycotted Tuesday's session in protest to the inclusion of the draft sales tax law on the House agenda. (See separate story.)

Mr. Masri also told the House that the government had presented to Parliament,

Ross visits

(Continued from page 1)

for Prime Ministry affairs, Finance Minister Sami Gammoh and deputy head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks.

On the American side the talks were attended by members of the U.S. delegation accompanying Mr. Ross and U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Wesley Egan.

Later, Dr. Anani and Mr. Ross described the outcome of the talks as very good and constructive.

At a press conference held at Amman Civil Airport prior to Mr. Ross' departure to Damascus on the fourth leg of his Middle East tour, Dr. Anani said the talks dealt with developments on the Israeli-Palestinian track in the bilateral Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and the possibility of resuming these negotiations as soon as possible with the participation of all parties concerned.

Dr. Anani said the two sides also discussed bilateral relations, particularly in economy, with special focus on the siege on Aqaba.

The American side has promised to study Jordanian demands in this regard and solve the issue soon, he said.

Dr. Anani voiced hope progress would be achieved soon and positive results would emerge on the issues which were discussed.

The latest ship to be intercepted by the U.S.-led naval forces patrolling the Red Sea was the German Skymen, car-

rying 3,000 tonnes of cargo for Jordan, said Ibrahim Naouri, an official of the Gargour Shipping Agency.

He said the inspectors kept the vessel waiting for one day at the straits before inspecting on Saturday and ruling that cargo aboard the ship was not accessible to them for inspection.

In his comments to Deputies, Dr. Majali recalled that the government had sent a strong protest to the Security Council several weeks ago pointing out that the inspection of Jordan-bound ships at high seas was illegal and was hindering the Kingdom's regular maritime operations.

Dr. Majali was asked by deputy Abdullah Akhbar Irshidet to clarify a report that Jordan had shipped 80 tonnes of chemicals to Iraq.

For the best interests of Iraq, I prefer not to answer that question," Dr. Majali said.

Informed sources said the reported shipment was of chemicals for refinery. No further detail was immediately available.

The latest ship to be intercepted by the U.S.-led naval forces patrolling the Red Sea was the German Skymen, car-

Deputies want talks linked to siege

(Continued from page 1)

by U.S. administration officials, but the pace of follow-up process is very slow, officials said.

Under the proposal, an independent agency shipping unit, would carry out the inspections of all cargo being unloaded at Aqaba for violations of the sanctions against Iraq.

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UNRWA Headquarters in Wadi Seer (Bayader)

is looking to recruit as soon as possible:

A. INSTRUCTION MATERIALS EDITOR (ARABIC)

to assist in the organization and management of the Correspondence Education Unit and acts as Coordinator of the Student Teacher Journal; edits in and translates to Arabic instruction materials for the Department of Education and checks, proofreads materials and supervises related work; compiles timely up-dates of glossary of Arabic educational terms etc.

As Student / Teacher Journal Coordinator solicits articles, recruit writers, receives/distributes scripts to the Editorial Board, convenes meetings of this Board, edits selected articles in Arabic, coordinates contracts, layout and design etc.

Participates/conducts seminars, summer courses and activities.

Excellent command of Arabic and v.g. English , University degree in Arabic, additional studies in English , Diploma in Education (or at least one-year Teacher Training Course) are ESSENTIAL.

(Starting salary about JD. 453.60 plus dependency allowances).

B. GENERAL EDUCATION SPECIALIST (SOCIAL STUDIES)

conducts analytical evaluation and proposes enrichment and development of curricula and methods of subject teaching in Agency schools; conducts research studies on topics as attitudes, values, behavior modification; provides Education Development Centers with other practical and innovative plans for effective subject teaching; prepares guidelines for School Supervisors for the development of self-learning materials aiming at improving the subject achievements of Agency students; prepares core curricula/syllabuses for the subject teaching; prepares teacher guides, audio-video programmes, Updates teaching aids requirements; supervises the subject teaching; participates in organizing in-service training courses; Very good knowledge of English and Arabic, Advanced University Degree in Social Studies, Education Diploma (or at least one-years Teacher Training Course) and competence in preparing curriculum enrichment and self-learning materials are ESSENTIAL.

(Starting salary about JD. 556.10 p.m plus dependency allowances).

C. SUPPLY ASSISTANT (MOTOR TRANSPORT - VEHICLE OPERATIONS)

edits/reviews indent for stock disposition, collects data on vehicle operations including spare parts and enters into PC database; maintains Agency fleet records; ensures continuous insurance coverage of the fleet; maintains records of suppliers' micro-fiche catalogues; collates statistical returns on fleet operations and maintenance; up-dates Motor-Transport reports and drafts end types correspondence related to MT technical matters.

Very good knowledge of English and Arabic, completed secondary education, 2-year business course, Computer literacy (e.g. MS Word, Lotus 123, D-base, Paradox) with ability to understand local Area Network concepts from user perspective are ESSENTIAL.

(Starting salary about JD. 325 p.m. plus dependency allowances)

D) SUPPLY ASSISTANT (MOTOR TRANSPORT - FOLLOW UP)

assists with ordering of vehicles and their assignment, specially with checking and following up of orders, insurance and shipping documentation; maintains registers; drafts correspondence and maintains work related records.

Excellent knowledge of written and spoken English and Arabic, completed secondary education, 2-years business course, five years clerical experience related to supply or transport operations, working knowledge (literacy) of PC softwares such as MS WORD, LOTUS 123, D-base, Paradox and ability to understand Local Area Network (LAN) computer concepts are ESSENTIAL.

(Starting salary about JD. 325 p.m. plus dependency allowances)

E) PURCHASING OFFICER (MOTOR TRANSPORT)

prepares periodic reviews and related correspondence; carries out market research ,contacts suppliers, prepares tender documents, analyses quotations for vehicles and spares; updates records and catalogues; follows-up on movements and orders; drafts related correspondence and maintains appropriate records. Stands for the Deputy Motor Transport Officer during absences.

University Degree in Business Administration, commerce or related discipline; six years office and supply experience, of which 4 must be in procurement of vehicles, spare parts and accessories, with use of PC (working knowledge of MS WORD, Lotus 123, D-base, Paradox), ability to understand concepts of Local Area Networks (LAN) and excellent command of English and Arabic are ESSENTIAL.

(Starting salary about JD. 450 p.m. plus dependency allowances).

F) DEPUTY MOTOR TRANSPORT OFFICER

inspects Agency vehicles and workshops, provides technical advice to the Field Supply and Transport Officers and Vehicle Maintenance Officers; reviews monthly operational returns for excessive cost, use or consumption (accounting and statistical functions); advises on all matters related to Agency vehicle workshops, including procedures, staffing and training; is responsible for the vehicle replacement programme, including review of field requests, ordering, inventory control, periodic reviews, inter-field transfers and vehicle surveys (disposal); assists the Motor Transport Officer in negotiations with suppliers and contractors and other professional matters.

University Degree in Mechanical Engineering with studies in business administration , seven years experience in motor transport operations and stock control with computer use, working knowledge of PC software (MS Word, Lotus 123, D-base, Paradox), ability to understand the concepts of PC Local Area Networks (LAN) as a user, driving license (ability to obtain one in each field Lebanon /SAR/ Jordan / West Bank / Gaza) as well as excellent commands of English and Arabic (French, German, Italian) desirable.

(Starting salary about JD. 555 p.m. plus dependency allowances).

Pakistan marches on the road to industrialisation

Pakistan — basic facts

Name of the country:	Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Geographical location:	Between 23 and 37 North latitude and 61 and 61 and 76 East longitude.
Boundary:	North: China (Sinkiang), North West: Afghanistan and Iran, East: India, South: Arabian Sea, 796,095 square kilometres.
Area:	Cultivated: 20.8 million hectares. Forest: 3.13 million hectares.
Population:	114 million (1990).
National language:	Urdu
Official language:	English/Urdu
Currency:	Rupee
Capital city:	Islamabad.
Economy:	Free market economy
Sea ports:	Karachi, Mombah Bin Qasim, Gwadar and Pasni.
Dry ports:	Lahore, Rawalpindi and Sialkot.
International airports:	Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar and Quetta.
National airline:	PIA (connected with all important places in the world).
GDP growth rate:	6.4
Large multi-nationals:	140
Major crops:	Wheat, rice, sugarcane, grams, cotton and tobacco.
Major industries:	Textiles, cement, fertiliser, leather garments, chemicals, agro-based, engineering, electrical/electronics industries.

On March, 23, 1940, a resolution was adopted by the Muslim League, representing Muslims of British India, demanding a separate independent homeland for the Muslim. Pakistan emerged on the map of the world as a sovereign state on Aug. 14, 1947, when the British Indian Empire was partitioned into two independent states: India and Pakistan.

History

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, stretching over an area of 796,095 sq. km., is a land of immense natural beauty and cradle of some of the oldest civilisations of the world. Rich in cultural heritage, the country comprises regions that have great centres of nearly half a dozen ancient civilisations.

In the south, the Indus Valley civilisation was at its peak some 4,500 years ago. Excavations at Moenjodaro, Harappa and Kot Diji have brought to light evidence of a highly developed civilisation.

In the north, Buddhist stupas, monasteries and the tem-

ples of Taxila, Takht-Bhai, Shabgarhi, Swat and Peshawar recalled the great classical tradition of Gandhara art of architecture and sculpture.

Economic policies

The people's government is aware of the country's economic needs in the context of the rapidly changing global environment.

It is the prime objective of the government to enlarge economic freedom within a stable and responsible framework, integrated with a new social contract with maximum delegation of authority to popular institutions at local levels and an awakened sense of social responsibility. The basic aim of its economic policy is to raise the economic growth to at least 70 per cent with the benefit of growth shared by all the regions and people. Growth is to be achieved by providing appropriate support to the private sector as the role of the government is reduced.

The following measures have been announced by the government to achieve its economic objectives.



Sardar Farooq Ahmed Khan Laghari, President of Pakistan



His Majesty King Hussein Bin Talal



Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah



Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan

I. Public-private partnership.
A new revolutionary concept of business enterprise of public-private partnership, to give a genuine boost to the private sector, particularly the small businessman, has been announced. Under this policy, if any private sector enterprise intends to start an economically viable project, the government will join hands in the venture by contributing matching funds to the amount invested by the private entrepreneurs. This concept will be equally applicable to those projects which are already in operation and are poised for expansion and require additional funding. This public-private partnership will lead to investments in infrastructure projects, housing and land development. Under this scheme, the private sector will have the option to buy back the government shares and thus completely own the business enterprise.

II. Deregulation
In its previous term of office in the year 1988, the Pakistani government had begun the process of economic deregulation. It will even now pursue the policy of liberalisation of the foreign exchange regime and dismantling of investment controls. It is also considering measures by which trade and foreign exchange can be further freed, without jeopardising macro-economic stability.

III. Bigger role for private sector

The encouragement of private enterprise is an important feature of the people's government's economic strategy. The emphasis is on inducing private entrepreneurs into areas previously reserved for the public sector. It is a policy aimed at development of new productive assets and not merely the transfer of ownership from the state to the

Necessary economic security

to the economically weak segments of society will also be provided.

IV. Balanced growth

It is the aim of the government to bring down the budget deficit to sustainable levels both by economies in expenditure as well as increase in resources, stabilise financial discipline and bring down inflation to tolerable levels. The plan is to be implemented in a transparent manner, through the stock exchange and banks. Privatisation must also safeguard the rights of the workers of the units concerned.

Maintained economic growth. Growth, investment and employment

The performance of the Pakistani economy during the 1980s has been much better than that of most of the South Asian countries, with an annual impressive real growth of 6.3 per cent. During the 90s, this trend continued when the economy achieved a GDP growth rate of 6.4 per cent. Investment levels are higher while climate for foreign investment has positively re-

(Continued on next page)

BEST WISHES

AND PROSPEROUS YEARS
TO COME TO THE
PAKISTANI PEOPLE
& GOVERNMENT ON
THE OCCASION OF
"PAKISTANI NATIONAL DAY"

اللهم ية المعلومات
ALMADINA INFORMATION

Minar-e-Pakistan Resolution

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aims at stability, economic reform, social justice

spurred to the new economic package of liberalisation and privatisation.

Industry

Industry is the second largest commodity producing sector which contributes 16 per cent to the GDP. The sector absorbs 12.69 per cent of the total employed labour force in the country. It accounts for 70 per cent of the country's exports with cotton textiles, leather and footwear, carpets, sports goods, surgical instruments and petroleum products contributing a substantial share.

Today the country is not only self-sufficient in several of the essential consumer goods but is making rapid strides in the establishment of sophisticated capital goods industries. Big textile mills, cement, fertilizers and chemical plants, oil refineries, vast complexes of manufacturing industrial machinery and capital goods, factories, trucks and motor cars, assembly plants, railway carriages and rolling stocks manufacturing yards, shipbuilding yards and sprawling industrial estates produce a

host of consumer and capital goods spread all over the country.

Mineral development

A mineral development policy has been framed to accelerate the pace of development in this area by providing attractive packages to increase local and foreign investment in the joint ventures.

Education

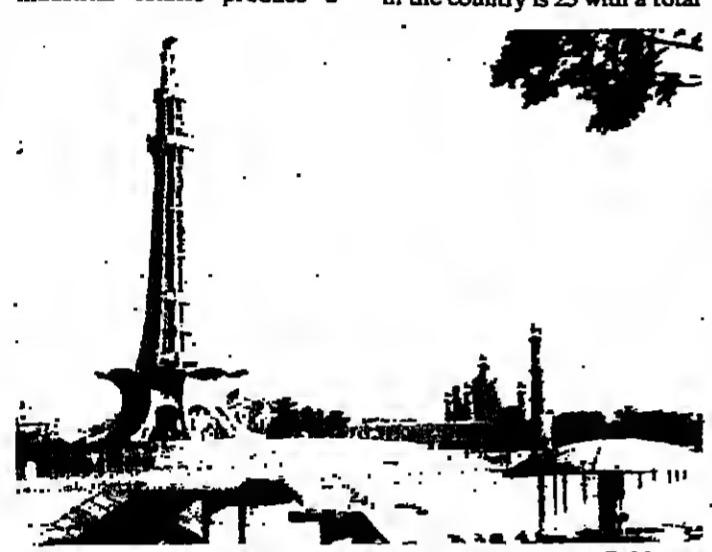
The government of Pakistan is a signatory to the 1990 World Conference on Education For All, which aims at universalising primary education by the year 2000.



Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto inaugurating the First Locomotive Engine produced at Pakistan Locomotive Factory at Risalpur on December 2, 1993.

To overcome the shortage of primary school teachers and to involve them in gainful employment, a programme of training 10,000 primary school teachers through the distance education system of Allama Iqbal Open University has been launched at a cost of Rs. 25.00 million. These teachers will be available for teaching in formal and non-formal schools throughout the country.

The number of universities in the country is 23 with a total



Minar-e-Pakistan, Lahore, built at the place where Pakistan Resolution was passed in 1940.

enrollment of 82,040 persons for post-graduate disciplines and managed by 4,573 teachers. The objectives of the state policy in this area is to bring about a real qualitative improvement at this highest level of education and encourage research and specialisation.

Foreign relations

As an Islamic and non-aligned country, Pakistan resolutely supports the principles of respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and non-use of force as well as the internationally recognised norms of good neighbourliness, peaceful co-existence and friendly cooperation for mutual benefit. Pakistan, therefore, remains fully committed to upholding the principles and purposes of the U.N. Charter, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) which hold out the premise of a just and equitable world order in which nations can live in peace and security, while devoting their energies

to building a prosperous future.

Pakistan-Jordan relations

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have often visited Pakistan. There have been regular visits by heads of



**International Community School
(The British Curriculum School in Amman)**

The ICS sends their warmest congratulations to the people of Pakistan on the occasion of their National Day.

lic of Pakistan enjoy very close and cordial relations which are characterised by religious, historic and cultural affinities, commonality of views on important regional and international issues, cooperation in various fields and moral and material support rendered by the two countries to each other in time of need.

Promotion of closer and brotherly relations with the Islamic World and espousal of Islamic causes have been among the guiding principles of Pakistan's foreign policy. Pakistan's solidarity with the Arab World is the most striking and dominant feature of the history of the Pakistani nation. Support to Arab causes preceded even the creation of Pakistan as a sovereign state in 1947. There have been regular high level visits from Jordan and Pakistan. His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan have often visited Pakistan. There have been regular visits by heads of

state and governments from Pakistan also. Jordan has strong economic, trade, cultural and military cooperation with Jordan. Under the Cultural Agreement, Pakistan presently provides 31 seats to Jordanian students in various professional fields. Out of these, three are offered with scholarship by the Ministry of Education. Besides these, any number of students can avail themselves of university education in Pakistani educational institutions on a self-financing basis.

Jordan also avails training programmes in railway courses and commercial banking. Jordan also offers three scholarships to Pakistani students in various educational institutions every year.



A view of Shalimar Garden, Lahore

مَرْكَزُ الْإِنْتَشَارَاتِ الْهَندُوسيَّة

Consulting Engineering Center

(Sajdi & Partners)

Wishes the people of Pakistan prosperity & advancement on

Pakistan National Day

ADPRO

It Goes Without Saying ...



CJC

Best wishes and heartiest congratulations on Pakistan's National Day

Orient Shipping Co. Ltd.

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Pakistan National Shipping Corp.

**Heartfelt
Congratulations**

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Congratulate
the people and government
of Pakistan on
Pakistan's National Day

CONGRATULATIONS

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and

Al Amoudi Company for Food Supplies

Proprietors: Mustafa Al Amoudi and Brothers

Extend their congratulations and best wishes to
the government and people of Pakistan
on the occasion of

Pakistan's National Day

and wish Pakistan and its people further prosperity,
security and stability.

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ON THE OCCASION OF
PAKISTAN DAY
STAFF MEMBERS AND MANAGEMENT
WISH THE PEOPLE OF
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U.S. challenges world to build 'network of networks'

Buenos Aires (R) — The United States Monday urged countries to build a "network of networks" that could pump billions of dollars into the global economy by linking computers in homes, schools and offices around the world.

Vice President Al Gore told a U.N.-sponsored conference on telecommunications development that the world has the financial and technical resources to spin such a web, which he baptised a Global Information Infrastructure (GII).

"We now can at last create a planetary information network that transmits messages and images with the speed of light from the largest city to the smallest village on every continent," Mr. Gore said.

Some U.S. experts maintain a world computing network could be built and run by private industry. In fact, Mr. Gore pointed out in his speech, the network is already being built in bits and pieces as fiber-optic cable is laid under seas

and across continents.

His announcement coincided with the creation of a joint venture between the founders of Microsoft Corp and of McCaw Cellular Communications Inc., which appears to share a similar philosophy.

In his speech to an audience including some of the world's top policy-makers and the biggest names in the communications industry, Mr. Gore said his country would throw all its might behind the global network project.

Mr. Gore described a vision of a web capable of improving international communications, of raising businesses' productivity, taking education to the farthest corners of the world and even promoting representative democracy.

"The global economy will also be driven by the growth of the information age. Hundreds of billions of dollars can be added to world growth if we commit to the GII," he added.

The nine-day conference

organised by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), a U.N. body with 182 member states, will also work on an action plan to extend modern communications to the least developed countries.

According to the union, despite numerous technological breakthroughs and the fact that telecommunications projects have proved profitable around the world, there is a huge gap between rich and poor nations.

The 24 wealthiest countries have 70 per cent of the world's telephone lines and only 15 per cent of its population. ITU Secretary-General Pekka Tarjanne said, noting that two-thirds of the world's homes still have no phones.

The ITU estimates the world will have to invest around \$530 billion by the year 2000 to boost "teledensity" — measured by main telephone lines per 100 inhabitants — to 14.5 from 10.

But, Mr. Tarjanne noted, several developing countries

have managed to build up their telecommunications, including Botswana, Turkey, Korea and Chile.

"There is no blueprint for success, although there are common points that can be adopted by developing countries," Mr. Tarjanne said.

Mr. Gore and Argentine President Carlos Menem, who in 1990 opened his country's ailing telephone system to private-sector operators, spoke out in favour of privatisation and competition in telecommunications.

Mr. Gore noted that participation by private industry spurred advances in communications in dozens of countries and urged others to follow the lead of Argentina, Chile and Mexico.

"But privatisation is not enough, competition is needed as well. Today, there are many more technology options than in the past and it is not only possible but desirable to have different companies running competing but interconnected networks," he said.

According to a recent IEA publication, the OECD transport sector alone produced nearly three times as much CO₂ in 1990 as it did in 1960.

Swiss Transport, Communications and Energy Minister Adolf Ogi said views about carbon taxes were "very different" among the 23 IEA members representing all Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) members except Ice-

land.

Carbon taxes have been subject to heated debate among energy producing and consuming nations. OPEC has repeatedly said CO₂ emissions did not necessarily cause global warming.

Ms. Steeg herself said she saw a shift from indirect taxation on energy producers to direct taxation at the consumption level.

"The gas industry in Abu

JAL to cut executives' pay further

TOKYO (AP) — Japan Airlines Co. (JAL) the nation's largest airline, has said it is making deeper cuts in the pay of its 36 full-time executives as it tries to find its way out of a business slump. The cuts, effective April 1, are to express management's determination to cope with recession and share its difficulties with 22,000 employees. JAL said in a statement. It said the pay cuts for its chairman and president will be widened to 30 per cent from the current 20 per cent, and those of other executives will be expanded by five percentage points, to levels ranging from 13 per cent to 25 per cent. The statement said JAL has been paying the executives reduced salaries since April 1992.

It said the bank, which helps finance projects for developing nations, emphasises "continued funding of fossil-fuel based projects that contribute to global climate change."

"The bank's 1992 energy efficiency policy has the potential to be the single most im-

World Bank energy loans ignore conservation — study

portant factor in encouraging investments in energy efficiency in the developing world, but it has yet to be implemented properly," Karen Capoor, an EDF analyst and cosponsor of the study, told a news conference.

The World Bank in a fiery statement responded that the study "deliberately falsifies" the bank's positions, and said the environmentalists appeared to be advocating "that the developing world will have to make do with dung for cooking and their feet and bicycle rickshaws for transport."

The bank added, "two billion people living in developing countries have no access to electricity whatsoever. How many of these people can use, let alone afford, the 25 lightbulbs or the high-efficiency air conditioners that rich-

country lobby groups say are so essential for energy efficiency?"

The environmental groups said the study included loans in the pipeline during the first six months of 1993 and assessed the bank's intentions, not necessarily loans it has im-

plemented.

The study said the bank does

push efficiency by encouraging developing countries to reform their pricing structures to better reflect actual costs. But, it said, the bank generally does not incorporate technological advances or conservation measures to control energy demand.

Bruce Rich of the EDF said the United States should put more pressure on the bank to reform its energy loans. Congress has voted to encourage energy efficiency in the bank's loans since 1985, he said.

IEA ministers discuss carbon taxation

INTERLAKEN (R) — Ministers from the 23 member countries of the International Energy Agency (IEA) discussed, for the first time, taxation on carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, IEA Executive Director Helga Steeg said Monday.

But Ms. Steeg, speaking to reporters after two days of informal ministerial talks of the West's energy watchdog, said implementation of such a tax on so-called greenhouse

gases would not be immediate. "The tax issue is an extremely difficult issue which will not be adopted overnight," Ms. Steeg said.

Ms. Steeg said the IEA believed that a tax on CO₂ emissions alone would not be enough to clean up the environment. She said the Paris-based agency would next meet tax experts from member countries to "find a solution to very difficult questions."

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"The gas industry in Abu

Turkey buys more oil, pays less

ANKARA (R) — Turkey bought 13.2 per cent more crude oil in 1993, but paid 3.1 per cent less for it because of a decline in the crude oil prices last year, Anatolian News Agency has said. It said Ankara said \$2.55 billion for 21.7 million tonnes of crude imports last year, compared to \$2.63 billion for 19.2 million tonnes in 1992. The agency said Turkey's average per barrel oil bill was down by 2.7 in 1993 to 16.1 from 18.8 the previous year.

Saudi Arabia was Turkey's top oil supplier with 11.4 million tonnes worth \$1.29 billion in 1993, followed by Iran with 5.2 million tonnes worth \$602 million, it said. Earlier, officials have said Turkey plans to import 20 million tonnes of crude and produce about 4.5 million tonnes this year.

IMF official says no Russian deal yet

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's tortuous negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) dragged into a third week Tuesday but the head of the IMF team said a final agreement still evaded them.

Deputy IMF Director Ernesto Hernandez-Cata told Reuters that his delegation had struck agreement on some policy issues, which he did not detail.

But there was no final deal, which would amount to a vote of confidence in Russian economic policy and free a key \$1.5 billion loan shelved because of failure to cut spending.

"The meetings and the negotiations are continuing," Mr. Hernandez-Cata said. "At this moment, there's no breakthrough yet although we've agreed on a number of issues."

The talks with the IMF come amid talk on Mr. Yeltsin's dwindling political and physical strength, vehemently denied by his aides.

Mr. Yeltsin, who normally withdraws from public view when trying to decide what to do at times of crisis, left for a two-week holiday in the Black Sea resort of Sochi last Monday.

Since the elections, the political initiative has shifted away from Mr. Yeltsin, who enjoys being perceived in the West as a symbol and guarantor of Russian reforms.

Bankers and economists are confused by continuing reform pledges by top officials which sound increasingly empty when accompanied by talk of more state control over the economy.

Senior government officials said the IMF had asked Russia to come up with a new economic policy statement similar to a May 1993 pact promising low inflation and a tighter budget.

Russian inflation fell to an 18-month low of 9.9 per cent in February from January's 73 per cent.

But the IMF's Hernandez-Cata questioned this fall, saying it may be underestimated due to technical reasons.

This adds to a flurry of recent inflation targets by the government — including a promise by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin of a monthly rate to seven to nine per cent by the end of 1994 and one by Mr. Yeltsin of three to five per cent.

Angola devalues kwanza again

LUANDA (R) — Angola has devalued its currency for the fourth time in five weeks, from 24,970 kwanza per dollar to 35,000 kwanza.

The move was made "to give continuity to the process of gradual adjustment of the official rate of exchange towards the point of macroeconomic equilibrium," a central bank statement said.

The formerly Marxist government said in its 1994 economic and social programme, approved by parliament on March 9, that it would continue the policy of devaluation until the official rate was equal to the free-market rate.

Angola's official rate of exchange is seen by analysts as a legacy of the days of state planning as a form of state subsidy.

Free-market rates are available in Luanda from commercial banks and street moneychangers at about 130,000 kwanza a dollar.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY MARCH 23, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

system to work that will make you more efficient. Take no risks where your health is concerned to remain physically fit.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Study business conditions early and then later you'll know how to deal with others. Improve relations with associates is wise for your success.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good day to renew your energies so that you can handle your obligations well. Allow yourself time for meditation in the evening for peace of mind.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take time to improve your talents. Do something of a humanitarian nature and gain the respect of others by your great generosity.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take a new look at your responsibilities and figure out a better way to handle them. Make sure legal papers are in order just in case.

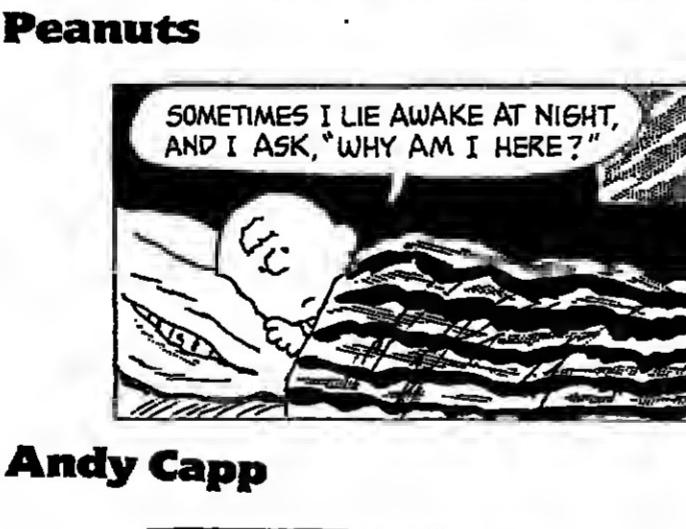
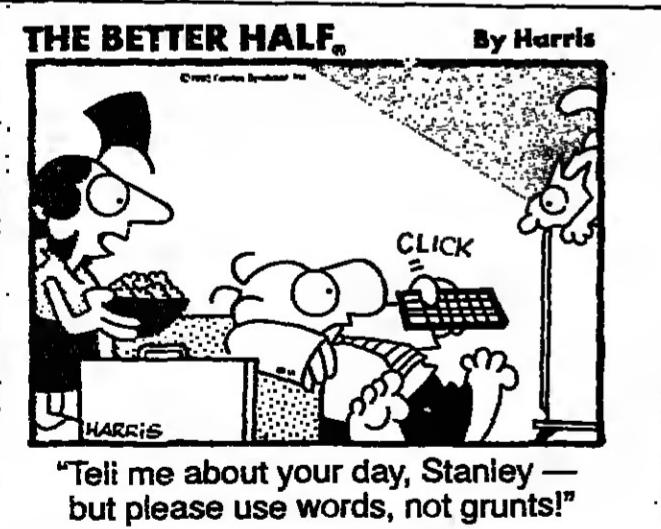
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listen to what a business expert has to say about your own judgment when making a decision. Don't reflect civil judgment when you must do.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Put new ideas in work that could give you added income in the future. Strive for more rapport with your loved ones and you will be very wise.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take over your career goals with higher-ups and get ahead easier. Use the right methods to solve difficult problems.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Obtain the information you need for a special project you have in mind. Go after your aims early in the day and you will get excellent results.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) You can put a new

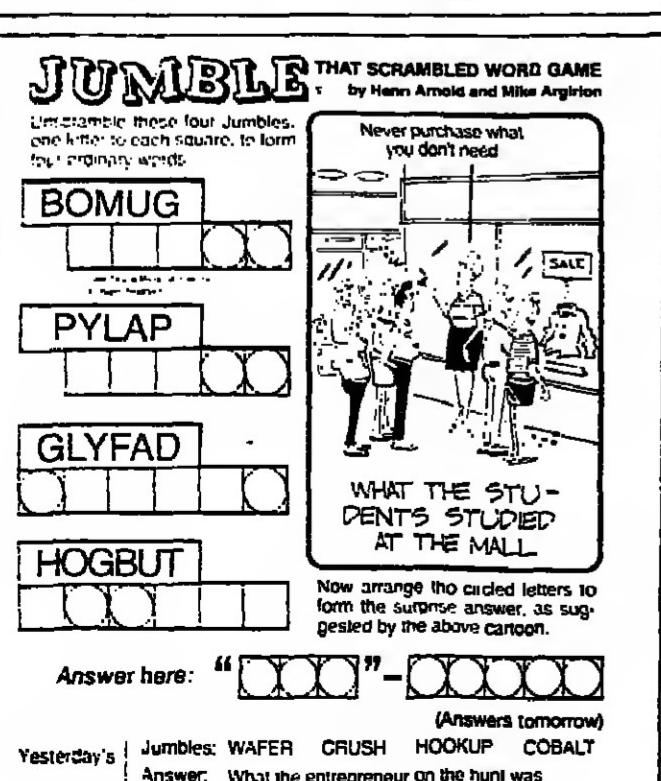


Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

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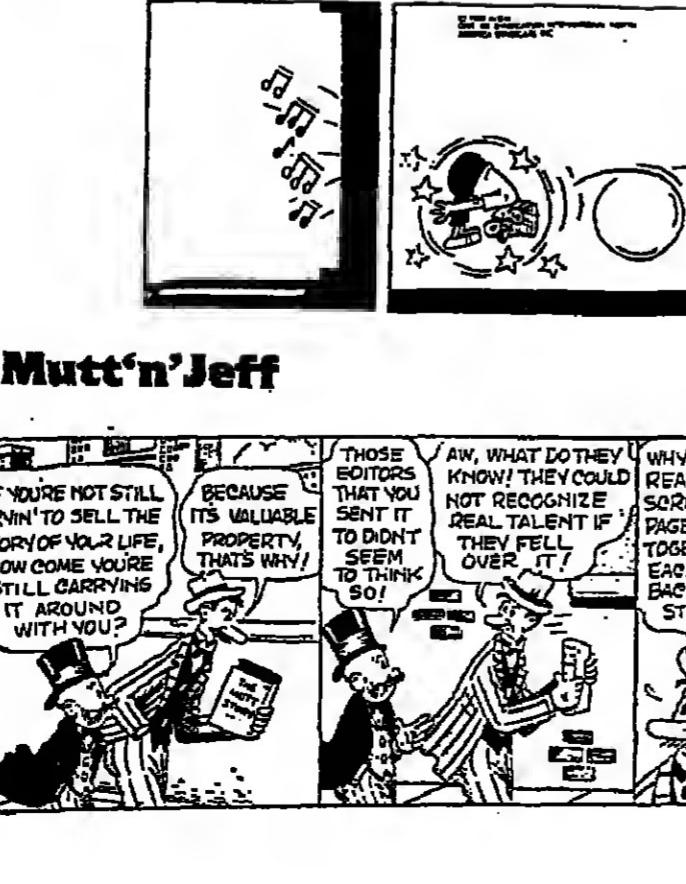


Answer here: **WAVER CRUSH HOOKUP COBALT**

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: **WAFER CRUSH HOOKUP COBALT**

Answer: What the entrepreneur on the hunt was after — **A FAST BUCK**



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Seoul prepares last-ditch diplomacy to avert crisis

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam ordered his country's armed forces on defensive alert Tuesday but prepared a last-ditch diplomatic effort to avert a crisis over North Korea's nuclear programme.

A presidential spokesman said Mr. Kim told army, navy and air force chiefs to heighten defences because of rising tension over the North's refusal to permit full inspection of its nuclear sites, where the West fears it is making a bomb.

Foreign Minister Han Sung-Jop said Seoul would not resort to hardline policies in efforts to resolve the crisis.

"At this stage, emotional hardline policies towards the North will hamper efforts by the international community to settle the nuclear problem," Mr. Han told a meeting of leaders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP).

"The government will maintain the basic strategy to block the North's nuclear development but in a way to avert war on the Korean peninsula."

Seoul fears the unpredictable North, reeling from the collapse of Communist allies and a slumping economy, might launch a military attack on the South if driven into a corner, analysts say.

Mr. Han said dialogue between the United States and North Korea was a "key factor in checking the North's destructive acts as well as in inducing the North to allow nuclear inspections."

Washington called off high-level talks with the North, originally scheduled for Monday in Geneva, after Pyongyang refused to allow full inspections of its declared nuclear sites.

President Kim would seek the active help of China, North Korea's only major ally, in getting Pyongyang to end its nuclear ambitions during his talks with Chinese leaders in Beijing next week, Mr. Han said.

Mr. Han, meeting reporters later, said Seoul would support

U.N. sanctions against the North if efforts to resolve the nuclear row through dialogue ended in failure.

On Monday, 25 countries on the 35-member International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board of governors adopted a resolution urging North to drop its resistance to full inspections.

American U.N. envoy Madeleine Albright said Monday the United States had prepared a Security Council resolution calling on North Korea to permit full inspections. The draft did not provide for sanctions, she said.

The United States decided Monday to deploy the anti-missile Patriot missiles in South Korea and revised plans for Team Spirit military exercises on the peninsula.

Officials in South Korea said Patriot missiles would be deployed at key sites around Seoul, barely 30 miles (48 km) from the border with the North.

Mr. Kim said the timing for resumption of the Team Spirit exercises, provisionally suspended just a few weeks ago in a conciliatory gesture to the North, would be decided after he returns from trips to Japan and China.

Mr. Kim will hold talks with Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa Thursday and Friday and with Chinese President Jiang Zemin next Monday.

"On the agenda in Kim-Hosokawa talks will be the Japanese government's steps to stop the transfer of hard currency from Japan to North Korea in case of any U.N. sanctions against North Korea," a Seoul government official said.

The North renewed its threat this week to withdraw from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty aimed at limiting the spread of nuclear weapons.

Tensions seemed to have eased last month after North Korea agreed to allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency

Spielberg's Schindler's List sweeps Oscars

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — Steven Spielberg, who has created Hollywood's biggest box-office hits only to be snubbed every year on Oscar night, finally broke his legendary jinx Monday night as his holocaust epic Schindler's List swept the Academy Awards.

Ending what Spielberg, 46, tearfully called "the longest drought of my life," his stark, black-and-white film won seven awards — more than any other contender — including Best Picture, Best Director and Screenplay Adaptation.

Tom Hanks picked up the Best Actor Award for his portrayal of a lawyer with AIDS in Philadelphia, and Holly Hunter was named best actress for her role in The Piano as a mute Scottish mail-order bride in 19th-century New Zealand.

From the very day the nominations were announced, Schindler's List — which was up for 12 awards — was considered a sure bet to dominate the Oscars and break Spielberg's string of losses spanning two decades.

But his heart may have skipped a beat when presenter Clint Eastwood opened the envelope and said "this is a big surprise" before naming him the winner for Best Director.

"I have friends who have won this before and I swear I haven't even held one before," Spielberg told the awards audience. His voice cracking with emotion.

Only minutes later, he re-

turned to the stage to accept his Best Picture Award. Wiping away tears.

The dinosaur epic Jurassic Park — another Spielberg creation — and Jane Campion's The Piano provided the closest competition. Each winning three Oscars. Campion lost directing honours to Spielberg but won for Best Original Screenplay.

The strident political statements that marked last year's post-election Oscars were replaced Monday night by mostly sentimental speeches and plenty of tears.

"The streets of heaven are too crowded with angels," Hanks, his voice quaking, said in tribute to AIDS victims. "They number a thousand for each of the red ribbons we wear."

Creating one of the biggest generation gaps in Academy Award history, veteran actor Tommy Lee Jones, 47, and 11-year-old first-time actress Anna Paquin won Oscars for Best Supporting Roles.

Paquin was the evening's biggest surprise. So stunned by her triumph over actresses four times her age that she was left teary-eyed and literally speechless as she accepted the award for her role in The Piano.

The pixie-faced New Zealander was the second youngest performer ever to win a competitive Academy Award. Tatum O'Neil was 10 when she took the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for the

1973 Paper Moon. While Campion's elegant romance The Piano gave stiff competition, Spielberg's three-plus drama captured the hearts — and ballots — of Oscar voters.

It was an emotional and triumphant moment for Spielberg, who had been nominated for directing skills three times before — for E.T., Raiders Of The Lost Ark and Close Encounters Of The Third Kind.

Twice — with Jaws and The Colour Purple — he received the ultimate snub. His films were nominated but he was not.

Some critics said the man who made his name as a master of escapism — and created four of the 10 top-grossing films of all time — had always fallen short of Oscar-winning quality. But Hollywood insiders believe jealousy over his success also played a role.

It took Schindler's List — the true story of a German war profiteer who saved more than 1,300 Polish Jews from the Nazis — for Spielberg to finally win Hollywood's respect.

Filmed on location in Poland, the movie marked for Spielberg a culmination of more than a decade of preparation.

The director has promised to take a break from filmmaking, but the Los Angeles Times reported he is now cooking up high-tech deals that would give his production company a role in the nation's emerging information superhighway.

Paquin, who played the obstinate daughter to Hunter's character in The Piano, gushed to reporters backstage: "This can't be happening. Oh my gosh. Oh my gosh."

Jones, the son of a Texas cowboy who went on to become one of Hollywood's most respected movie veterans, won Best Supporting Actor for his role as a relentless lawman in The Fugitive. A remake of the 1960s television series.

The Spanish film Belle Epoque, a romantic tale set in the 1930s, won the Oscar for Best Foreign-Language Film, beating out entries from Hong Kong, Britain, Taiwan and Vietnam.

When the curtain rose on the 66th Annual Academy Awards, a global television audience estimated at upward of one billion in 98 countries was watching.

Whoopi Goldberg, hosting for the first time after Billy Crystal declined to make a fifth

NEWS IN BRIEF

China parliament calls for stability

BEIJING (R) — The chief of China's parliament closed the annual legislative session Tuesday with a plea to delegates to fan out back into the countryside carrying Beijing's message that in 1994 stability is everything. Qiao Shi, president of the National People's Congress, told 3,000 delegates that healthy growth depended on keeping the social situation under control amid an era of enormous economic changes. "We must correctly handle relations between reform, development and stability," Mr. Qiao said in a closing speech in Beijing's Great Hall of the People. "We must strive to push ahead with reform and development amid stability, and achieve social stability and the country's long-term stability through reform and development," he said.

Gore calms Brazil fears over Amazon

BRASILIA (R) — Vice President Al Gore, moving to calm Brazilian fears over foreign interference in the resource-rich Amazon, said Monday that Brazil could rest assured the United States had no territorial designs on the region. "People in Brazil think the United States has designs on the Amazon, plans to invade the Amazon. When we in the U.S. hear these comments we are completely mystified," Mr. Gore said during a meeting in Brasilia with representatives of different sectors of Brazil's society. "We have no thoughts of anything remotely resembling that," the vice president told an audience, which included leaders of Amazon Indian tribes. Mr. Gore, who was on a six-hour visit to Brazil, the third and last stop of a two-day South American tour, said the idea of the United States invading the Amazon was comparable to thinking that Brazilians wanted to invade Florida. Western diplomats said his remarks appeared in part to be aimed at soothing past Brazilian diplomatic and military sensitivity over training manoeuvres involving U.S. troops carried out in neighbouring Latin American states which border on the vast Amazon region. Mr. Gore earlier met Brazilian President Itamar Franco.

Hale accepts plea bargain in Whitewater

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — David Hale, a former Arkansas judge who has implicated President Bill Clinton in a Whitewater-related controversy, will plead guilty Tuesday to two criminal charges in U.S. District Court at Little Rock. Sources said that Mr. Hale, who is already under indictment for submitting falsified documents to the small business administration, will also admit guilt to another undisclosed charge involving now-defunct Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan. Mr. Hale's trial was to begin next Monday in Little Rock, sources say his plea bargain agreement with special prosecutor Robert Fiske provides that Mr. Hale testify before a special grand jury investigating the business affairs of President and Mrs. Clinton. Mr. Hale owned a business development company, Capital Management Services Inc of Little Rock, that loaned \$300,000 in 1986 to Susan McDougal, wife of Jim McDougal, chairman of Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan. Investigators are trying to determine if any of the loan proceeds were funnelled to the Whitewater Development Corp. in which the McDougals were partners with then-Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas and his wife, Hillary. Mr. Hale has said he was pressured to make the loan by Mr. Clinton and Mr. McDougal, even though they allegedly knew the proceeds would not be used for the purposes stated on the loan application.

Clinton attacks Republican

BAL HARBOUR, Florida (R) — President Bill Clinton said Republicans fighting his agenda, including health care reform were "in a snit" because they no longer controlled the White House. "The Republican Party has not always been against change. It has not always been obsessed with personal power and just in a snit because they didn't have the White House," Mr. Clinton said at a Democratic Party dinner that raised \$3.5 million. Saying the Republicans have contributed strong leaders and ideas in the past, Mr. Clinton lamented that "today, instead of that, they don't offer lot of new ideas. And they often offer blatant, blind, partisan opposition." Earlier, in Deerfield Beach, Mr. Clinton charged that conservative Republicans were leading the fight against his drive to reform the health care system. "The opponents of our plan are trying to confuse the issue by making it seem complicated. They ignore the fact that the system we have today is the most complicated on the face of the earth," Mr. Clinton said at an outdoor rally.

Christopher defends China trip

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher defended his recent trip to China, which has come under heavy criticism and led to a clash with Beijing over a U.S. linkage of trade status and human rights policy. "Some say I should have cancelled my trip, particularly in the face of the Chinese government's deplorable efforts to silence its citizens. But that course would have been a grave error," Mr. Christopher wrote in Tuesday's Washington Post newspaper. "I went to Beijing to carry out the president's policy and to make sure that the Chinese government, at the highest levels, does not misunderstand our nation's position and does not underestimate the strong support that our policy commands from Congress and the American people," he wrote in an opinion piece printed opposite the Post's editorial page. "Despite some of the atmospheres, I believe that this message now has been clearly received by China's leaders, and I believe that they now realize that complacency is not an option," he wrote. The United States is pressing China to correct alleged human rights abuses and has threatened to withdraw the country's so-called most favoured nation (MFN) trade status if China fails to improve its human rights record in seven areas.

30,000 Cambodians flee fighting

BANGKOK (R) — About 30,000 Cambodians have sought refuge in Thailand since the weekend capture by government forces of the Khmer Rouge's Pailin stronghold, Thai Defence Minister Vittij Sookmark said Tuesday. He said the refugees had been allowed to cross into Thailand and would be allowed to stay until the situation returned to normal. Among the exodus of overloaded bicycles, ox carts and motorcycles were several hundred Khmer Rouge guerrillas, dressed in their distinctive green uniforms but without weapons. Thailand, which vehemently denies assisting the rebels, has said it would allow unarmed Cambodians to cross into Thailand purely on humanitarian grounds. The Cambodian army believe the success of the Pailin operation had largely broken the back of the rebel resistance for the moment. But on Monday, the army continued to pour in reinforcements into the former Khmer Rouge headquarters fearing the possibility of a counterattack. Meanwhile, more than 20 Cambodian civilians, most of them family of government border policemen, fled to Thailand near the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet, about 100 kilometres north of Pailin.

Britons fear crime more than ever — survey

LONDON (R) — Britons are becoming more afraid of crime than ever before, a survey found. The government said a spate of horrific murders, including the "house of horrors" serial killing in Gloucester in which nine bodies have been found and two-year-old James Bulger's murder by a pair of 10-year-olds, was partly responsible. But the Home Office (Interior Ministry), responsible for police and crime issues, said a real increase in crime had also frightened people. "Crime has risen and people are understandably concerned," a spokesman said. But he added: "The vast majority of crime — 95 per cent of crime — is property crime rather than violent crime." According to the survey, done by Mori for Readers' Digest magazine, most people — 77 per cent of the 2,000 interviewed — fear burglary. Only 60 per cent said they feared burglary in the last such survey in 1987. The survey found 78 per cent of women under 25 were afraid of being raped while 57 per cent of all women said it was a worry. Most people, 72 per cent, blamed drugs as a cause of crime while 71 per cent blamed unemployment and 69 per cent said a lack of parental discipline was responsible. Government figures show recorded crime in England and Wales rose 3.8 per cent in 1992 to a record 5.7 million offences. More than one offence for every 10 people. Recorded crime has risen 74 per cent over the last 10 years but only 26 per cent of crimes are solved by police — down from 37 per cent in 1982. Curbing crime is a huge political issue and is a cornerstone of Prime Minister John Major's "back to basics" campaign. But while the government proposes stronger sentencing laws, most people surveyed said they would rather have more police on the beat.

High winds hamper North pole expedition

VANCOUVER (R) — A British explorer aiming to become the first person to walk to the North Pole alone and without help is making extremely slow progress, his publicist said Tuesday. Rupert Hadlow has managed to cover only about 14 miles (22 km) in the first two weeks of his trek because of high winds and whiteouts, the publicity firm said. Mr. Hadlow had expected to average about 10 miles (16 km) a day to finish the 630-mile (1,010-km) journey from a remote island in Canada's arctic to the pole in about two months. "The weather's been holding him back, but it's forecast to improve. He's optimistic," said publicist Julie Wellik. Mr. Hadlow suffered frostbite to one finger but is otherwise in good condition, she said. If he succeeds, Mr. Hadlow will be the first person to reach the pole on foot and without help from dogs, motor transport or air support, his public relations firm said. But he is racing against Japan's Mitsuru Oba, who set off from the northern tip of Russia for the pole in late February. Norwegian Boerge Ousland is also seeking to make the same journey but left after Mr. Oba. No word was available on their progress.

Betrayed wife pours hot wax on husband's genitals

STOCKTON, England (R) — A woman enraged at revelations of her husband's adultery poured melted wax on his genitals while he was asleep, a British court heard Monday. The prosecution said Dianne Sladek, 49, sought revenge in the attack after a pair of her husband Michael's boxer shorts were posted to the house with a note from his alleged lover. "At 2 a.m. neighbours heard the most awful scream, Mr. Sladek's wife had gone down to the kitchen, taken five household candles, melted them in a pan on the stove and taken them back up to the bedroom," prosecutor David Gribton told the court. "He awoke in agony as molten candle wax was being tipped over him. It was painful as it covered his genitalia, his thigh and left hand," Mr. Gribton told the court in northeast England. Mr. Sladek, 43, needed extensive skin grafts in hospital and has been unable to work since the attack nearly a year ago. But in court he made a tearful plea that his estranged wife not be sent to prison, saying he did not want revenge.



Actress Anne Paquin of New Zealand poses with the 1993 Oscar she won for Best Supporting Actress during the 66th annual Academy Awards. Paquin, 11, won for her performance in the movie The Piano (AFP photo)



U.S. Director Steven Spielberg poses with his two Oscars during the 66th Annual Academy Awards ceremony after winning the 1993 awards for Best Director and Best Picture for his movie Schindler's List. (AFP photo)

Sports



Captain of the German national soccer team Lothar Matthäus gives the thumb-up sign during a photo call presenting the New Jersey for the upcoming World Cup (AFP photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vandals damage Berlin soccer headquarters

BERLIN (AP) — Vandals protesting a soccer match between Germany and England scheduled on Adolf Hitler's birthday smashed windows and splashed acid into a building housing Berlin's soccer association. Association Manager Reiner Gentz said the attackers sprayed slogans on the building late Sunday saying "no national game on April 20" and "oppose DFB and Nazis." DFB is the abbreviation for the German Soccer Federation. Leftist and violence-prone anarchist groups in Berlin distributed leaflets recently calling for protests against holding the soccer match on the 10th anniversary of Hitler's birth. The game had previously been scheduled in the port city of Hamburg, but authorities there cancelled it fearing violence by English and German radical rightists groups. Officials in Berlin offered to host the game, and the DFB announced Jan. 26 the game would take place April 20 at the city's Olympic Stadium. This is where the Nazi dictator staged the 1936 Olympics that were overshadowed by his racist ideology.

Laudrup wants to leave Milan

COPENHAGEN (R) — AC Milan striker Brian Laudrup said Monday he was fed up with the power and the policies of club owner Silvio Berlusconi and that he wanted to leave the Italian champions. "In other countries soccer club presidents are elected, but here they are kind of dictators. They step in and decide anything they like over the heads of the coaches and the players," Laudrup told Danish news agency Ritzau in Milan. The Danish international, who has openly criticised Milan's policy of having two class players competing for each position on the team, has lately been left out of the Milan squad. He said he was tired of "being a number that is sometimes drawn from a hat and is allowed to play."

Bent leaves hospital with warning

LONDON (R) — American heavyweight Michael Bent left hospital Monday with a warning never to box again after suffering a conculsive brain injury during a world title fight. The London-born American collapsed in his dressing room after he was knocked out in the seventh round, losing his World Boxing Organisation title to Britain's Herbie Hide at the New London Stadium Saturday night. John Sutcliffe, consultant neurosurgeon at the Royal London Hospital where 28-year-old Bent was treated, warned him not to fight again because of the culminating damage to his brain from years of punches.

Brundle to start in Brazil for McLaren

WOKING, England (AP) — Having failed to coax Formula One defending champion Alain Prost out of retirement, the McLaren team announced Monday that Martin Brundle would be its second driver in Sunday's Brazilian Grand-Prix. Brundle, who finished seventh in the drivers' championship last year with Ligier, won the place in the starting grid for the year's opening race over French driver Philippe Alliot. Alliot has also been signed for the 1994 season, and McLaren said it would name its second driver behind Finland's Mika Hakkinen on a race-by-race basis. Prost, who won the title last year with Williams, test drove the new McLaren Peugeot earlier this month. The Frenchman, who would have to be released from his Williams contract to drive this season, then announced he would not be available for 1994.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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FOLLOW THE RABBI'S RULE

East-West vulnerable. West deals:
NORTH
♦ A 10 4 2
Q 6 3
K 5
♦ K Q 7
WEST EAST
♦ 8 7 3 X
Q A K 5 2 V 10 9 4
Q A 7 3 10 9 8 4 2
♦ 6 5 4 10 9 8
SOUTH
Q J 9 6 5
8 7
Q 6
♦ A J 3 2

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠
Pass 2 ♦ Pass 3 ♦
Pass 4 ♣ Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
In the good old days, there was a kibitzer at New York bridge clubs who, after the fact, pontificate at great length on the obvious. This trait earned him the nickname of The Rabbi. One of his oft-quoted remarks has become known as The Rabbi's Rule: When the king is singleton, play the ace!
The Rabbi would have been proud!

West correctly did not open a flat

11 points in first seat. To facilitate a rebid, North selected one club for the opening bid, then raised partner's spade response. When South could make a game try, North accepted willingly.

West led the king of hearts, then cunningly shifted to a low diamond, won on the club lead. With three sure losers in the red suits, the contract hinged on not losing a trump trick and the percentage play, by a considerable margin, was to take a finesse for the king. However, South decided on further investigation before committing to that line.

At trick three, declarer returned a diamond. West rose with the ace, cashed the ace of hearts and shifted, safely enough, to a club. But the card was already out of the bag.

West, who had passed originally, had already shown up with the ace of hearts and the ace of diamonds. With the king of spades as well, West would have had 14 prime points in high cards alone and a sure opening bid. That placed East with the king of spades, so declarer won the club, utilized the diamonds by leading the queen of spades, then rose with the ace to tell the king and land the game.

The Rabbi would have been proud!

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The Rabbi would have been proud!

West correctly did not open a flat

Hawks beat Jazz in overtime

ATLANTA (R) — Stacey Augmon's dunk with 28.5 seconds left in overtime gave Atlanta the lead for good as the Hawks beat the Utah Jazz 100-96 Monday.

Kevin Willis had 25 points and 12 rebounds and Danny Manning and Mookie Blaylock each had 20 points for Atlanta, which has won three straight games and five of its last six to move a half game ahead of the Knicks for the best record in the Eastern Conference.

Jeff Hornacek had 25 points and John Stockton 21 to pace Utah, which went winless on a four-game road trip.

The Jazz took a 96-93 lead in overtime on a pair of Hornacek jumpers but Blaylock hit a 3-pointer with 1:30 left to knot the game at 96.

Hornacek had hit a foul shot with 15.9 seconds left in the fourth quarter to send the game into overtime. Hornacek was given a one-shot foul when

Craig Ehlo was called for a foul away from the ball.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon had 13 points and six rebounds in the fourth quarter as the Rockets extended their winning streak to five games with a 128-112 triumph over the Washington Bullets.

Olajuwon finished with 35 points and 15 rebounds and Kenny Smith had 24 points for Houston, with its victory over Washington has beaten every other team in the NBA at least once this season.

Houston moved a game ahead of San Antonio for top spot in the Midwest Division and clinched a playoff spot.

Don MacLean had 23 points and Mitchell Butler scored 18 for the Bullets, who have a six-game losing streak. At Los Angeles, Sedale Threatt had five points in a decisive 111-fourth-quarter run as the Lakers defeated the Miami Heat 84-81.

This time, Davenport fell behind two-love but then reeled off ten consecutive games on her way to the win.

Davenport, who has climbed from number 50 at this time last year to her current rank of 11, said she has changed a lot.

"I'm a lot better. I'm getting more consistent. How I started this match was how I used to play whole matches," she said.

Davenport took only 56 minutes to defeat 39th-ranked Majoli. After struggling in the first two games, Davenport switched rackets to one with looser strings. The new racket gave the tall American added power that Majoli could not have.

After reaching the semifinals at the Lipton Championships last week, Davenport could climb into the top ten with a good tournament this week.

She could do so by beating Kimberly Po in the second player in the semifinals.

"We need to keep fighting.

Davenport defeats Majoli in Houston

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — American 17-year-old Lindsay Davenport got revenge against 16-year-old Croatian Iva Majoli Monday with a 6-2, 6-1, victory in the first round of the \$400,000 Virginia Slims of Houston tennis tournament.

Both those couples have moved disenchanted away from competition, leaving the new team on top with what looks like a clear run at the world title.

"Of course this feels easier than the Olympics but we have strong rivals here, too," Platov said after he and Gritschuk won both compulsory dances to establish themselves firmly in first place.

But the dances, the Starlight Waltz and the Tango Romantica, are worth only 20 per cent of the marks, and the two couples behind them are hungry for success, even if realistically fighting only for second place.

Sophie Moniotte and Pascal Lavanchy of France grabbed that position in the early skirmish from Finns Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko.

They were fifth and fourth respectively in the Olympics.

The Finns were disappointed because effectively they dropped a place from where they might have expected to be with the other two couples dropping out.

"We need to keep fighting.

Gritschuk, Platov take dance lead

CHIBA, Japan (R) — Olympic champions Oksana Gritschuk and Evgeny Platov took the world championship ice dancing lead Tuesday against opposition they conceded made their task easier.

The Russian couple captured Olympic gold in Norway last month from world champion compatriots Maya Usova and Alexander Zhulin, with the 1984 Olympic champions, Britons Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, third.

Rahkamo said she and Kokko were happy to be here. "It's nice that we have a chance. When there are three big championships, it makes a long season but it is the same for everybody."

Lavanchy demurred, "It wouldn't be so concentrated if there was more time between the events, especially between the Olympics and the worlds."

"Two more weeks would have helped," he said.

The International Skating Union (ISU) refused Tuesday to discuss further the judging controversies arising from the Winter Olympics in Norway last month.

But they did agree that their relations with the press had been inadequate and pledged to improve them.

Four senior ISU officials held a meeting with journalists during the world championships Tuesday, the first of what they hoped would be a series "to educate the uneducated" as one of the officials put it.

The officials were ISU president Olaaf Poulsen of Norway, Vice-President Lawrence Demmy of Britain, and the Chairman of the figure skating and

the ice dancing technical committees, Sally Stapleford of Britain and Hans Kutschera of Austria.

The main point arising from the meeting was the ISU's intention to appoint a media liaison officer to deal with press queries and explanations to the press.

This followed criticism of the lack of explanation of the judging at the Olympics, particularly in the women's and ice dancing competitions.

The ISU refused to consider allowing judges or referees to speak to the press about the judging after individual, section of competitions.

"It is not possible during an event. Our regulations prevent judges discussing the event during a competition. It could influence the judging of the rest of the event," Demmy said.

But another member of the ice dance committee, Wolfgang Kunz of Germany, took issue privately with Demmy on the matter. Kunz said he felt there could be comment "not from the judges, but from the referee."

The ice dance has three events: The compulsory dances, the original dance and the free dances. The other competitions have two: The technical programme and the free skating.

Journalists were repulsed from asking questions about the judging of the women's competition in Norway, where Oksana Baiul beat Nancy Kerrigan for the gold and about the ice dance, where Britons Torvill and Dean finished third.

Grand jury concludes Harding was in on plot to injure rival

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The three men who admitted they carried out the assault on Nancy Kerrigan were indicted Monday by a grand jury that also accused rival skater Tonya Harding of helping plan the attack on Kerrigan by means of a dangerous weapon.

But because of Harding's plea bargain with authorities last week, she was not charged in the indictment, said Norm Frink, Multnomah County deputy district attorney. In her guilty plea, she acknowledged helping cover up the attack afterward but did not admit planning it.

Shawn Eckardt, Shane Stant and Derrick Smith pleaded innocent Monday to charges of racketeering, conspiracy to commit assault, assault and unlawfully obtaining communications.

Eckardt indicated the three men arraigned Monday also may be able to reach a plea agreement to avoid a trial.

"The defense and the state will be talking and we'll proceed from there," he said.

Eckardt faced additional

charges of conspiracy to hinder prosecution and hindering prosecution. Smith also was charged with conspiracy to hinder prosecution.

The communications charge stems from at least one secretly taped meeting involving those who participated in the conspiracy.

Eckardt and Smith were arrested Jan. 13. Stant surrendered to authorities in Arizona the following day. All three initially were charged with conspiracy to commit assault and were free on bail pending the

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Dr. Marwan Al Akaidi will be visiting Jordan. He will be available to answer your enquiries at the British Council from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The following days: Saturday 25, Monday 28, Wednesday 30, Thursday 31 March 1994.

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ACCIDENTAL HERO
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30

Opening Soon
A political comedy
Forbidden X Forbidden

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The next play....

Since the actors are abroad the theatre is closed
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PLAZA

Fifi Abdo/Hisham A. in QADARA
Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:45, 8:30, 1

NEWS IN BRIEF

Malaysian sultan arrives tomorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sultan Azlan Muhibeddine Shah of Malaysia and his wife start a three-day visit to Jordan on Thursday in response to an invitation extended to them by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. Sultan Shah will exchange views with King Hussein on various international issues of common interest, and review bilateral relations. The Malaysian monarch and his wife will also visit historical, archaeological and cultural places, in addition to Islamic sites and places of tourist attraction.

Fire on Aqaba ship; no casualties

AMMAN (J.T.) — A fire broke out Tuesday on a passenger ship berthed at Aqaba port but caused no casualties, civil defence officials reported. They said the Al Noor, a 2,200-tonne ferry boat which piles between Aqaba and Egypt's Nuweiba port, caught fire at 12 noon. The ship was berthed 300 metres from the coast and the fire did not cause any injuries, they said. The Al Noor is owned by the Arab Maritime Bridge Company. The extent of damage to the ship was not immediately known, but a civil defence spokesman said that the blaze was still on at around 4 p.m., four hours after it started indicating that damages could be extensive. Later Tuesday, Major Omar Tarawneh, head of the Aqaba Civil Defence Department, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the fire had been brought under control. No further details were immediately available.

Sudanese government and rebels meet

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese government officials and rebels began face-to-face talks in Nairobi on Tuesday in a new drive to try to end nearly 11 years of civil war in Africa's largest country. Two rebel delegations and a Sudanese government team met at the Kenyan Foreign Ministry with the foreign ministers of mediators Kenya, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Uganda, officials said. Each delegation had six members and Kenya Foreign Minister Kalonzo Musyoka chaired the talks under the sponsorship of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD). An official reported some disagreements on Tuesday over how fully to open routes to allow U.N. and other agencies to take food to people displaced by the war and threatened with famine. "At least they have begun talking so right now we can say there is hope they will move forward," the official added.

Court restores immunity of Kurdish deputy

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's constitutional court has restored the parliamentary immunity of one Kurdish member of parliament (MP) but upheld the assembly's decision to strip six other Kurdish nationalist MP's of their immunity. "The parliament decision to lift the immunity of Democracy Party (DEP) Deputy Selim Sadak has been annulled unanimously," Gunes Dincer, deputy chief judge of Turkey's highest judicial body, told Anatolian news agency on Monday night. "We have rejected objections to the parliament's decision to lift the immunities of the other deputies," he said. Mr. Sadak was stripped of his immunity March 2, detained briefly then released pending trial on charges of crimes against the state. Six other MPs, five from the DEP and one independent, are still in jail on charges involving links to separatist Kurdish guerrillas that can carry the death penalty. They were also stripped of their immunity on March 2 and detained. They were formally arrested while in jail on March 16.

Protests injure 20 police in France

PARIS (AP) — A sub-minimum wage law for younger employees took effect Tuesday despite more violent protests that injured at least 20 riot police overnight, one seriously. Students in Lyon, Nantes, Toulouse and a dozen other towns demonstrated Monday, resuming last week's protests against the conservative government's law to boost employment by paying young employees 80 per cent of minimum wage. A demonstration by up to 4,000 people persisted until just before midnight in Nantes, where riot police made a final charge to disperse demonstrators who lit bonfires in the city centre. Students, claiming they were provoked, hurled cobblestones and police fired tear-gas during the protests that began in the afternoon. One officer was hospitalised after a cobblestone flung by a demonstrator broke his jaw. Seventeen people were arrested. In Lyon, about 6,000 people took to the streets.

Khamenei: Iran will not bow to U.S.

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the Islamic republic will never bow to any pressure from the United States, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported on Tuesday. "He said that the United States, in order to establish ties with Iran, is exerting pressure on Iran to give up its rational positions, adding that one such position was the fact that Iran opposed the intervention of domineering powers in the internal affairs of the Iranian nation," IRNA said. It said Ayatollah Khamenei was addressing a crowd at a Muslim shrine. "The United States should know that the great nation of Iran has an ancient culture and has an illustrious past. This nation has seen enough hardship in its history to have developed a steel-like resolve," it quoted Ayatollah Khamenei as saying. "This nation shall never accept the United States and other domineering powers as her masters."

Swedish soldiers depart from Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — Sweden on Tuesday began pulling out a 42-strong logistics contingent that had served with a U.N. peacekeeping force on South Lebanon's volatile border with Israel since 1978. Timur Goksel spokesman for the 5,800-strong U.N. peacekeeping force, said the first batch of 100 Swedes was hussed to Beirut for a scheduled 11 a.m. (0900GMT) flight home. The Swedes are due to complete their withdrawal in two more batches by April 1 and will be replaced by similarly sized contingents from Poland, Mr. Goksel said. Sweden said after its contribution to a U.N. peacekeeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina last year that it would withdraw the Lebanon contingent because it could not afford two such missions abroad. The Swedish contingent suffered a total of seven fatalities during its service with the U.N. force. The U.N. contingent was deployed by the Security Council in South Lebanon after a 91-day Israeli invasion in 1978. The force, known as UNIFIL, is made up of troops from France, Ireland, Ghana, Finland, Norway, Nepal, Fiji, Poland and Italy.

Israel-PLO said near deal

(Continued from page 1)
ming the massacre and calling for an international presence in the territories.

Mr. Arafat, who has demanded an armed international force to protect the two million Palestinians in the territories, said he would not return to the talks until he had concrete guarantees.

Mr. Arafat discussed a preliminary accord with the PLO leadership Monday night and they gave him a green light to conclude the agreement with Israel, the sources said. They added that prior to the meeting, Mr. Arafat met in



RECENT VISITS MINISTRY: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, Tuesday visited the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and was briefed by Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan about the ministry's programmes. Dr. Adwan also outlined the ministry's plans in regions where archaeological sites are located (Petra photo)

Survivors say Hebron mosque firing came from two sources

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP)

Palestinian survivors suggested Tuesday that at least two gunmen were involved in the Hebron mosque massacre, contradicting Israeli claims that lone Jewish settler was responsible for killing dozens of Muslim worshippers.

But none of the three witnesses who said they heard shots fired from different directions saw a second gunman.

Members of the Israel's five-man commission of inquiry pressed the witnesses on why they did not mention a second shooter in earlier statements to investigators and whether they might have heard ricochets or echoes.

Elizer Goldberg, a supreme court justice, asked whether the testimony by some of the 11 Palestinian witnesses appearing Tuesday had been orchestrated.

"It is possible that beforehand you were guided to say something about this?" Mr. Goldberg asked after five witnesses requested at the end of their testimony to talk about Jewish settler harassment of Muslim worshippers at the

Ibrahimi Mosque, the site of the massacre.

Witness Mohammad Musbah Al Jabari, 29, bristled when confronted by Mr. Goldberg with his earlier affidavit to the Israeli human rights group B'tselem in which there was no mention of a second gunman.

"You want the truth?" Mr. Jabari said, his voice raised. "The truth is that there was more than one source of firing."

Mr. Jabari, an English teacher, said after the hearing that he did not believe the commission, which was appointed by the supreme court at the Israeli government's urging, would be fair.

"The court itself follows the same policy as the Israeli government. I came here to tell the truth to the world through the mass media," he told the Associated Press.

Witness Abdul Hafez Al Jabari, 70, told the televised hearing that the friction between the Palestinians in Hebron and the Jewish settlers there had become unbearable.

"Either you have to take us to Arab countries or you have

to remove the people who are bothering us," Mr. Jabari said. Some 450 settlers live in six enclaves in the heart of Hebron, a town of 110,000 Palestinians.

The Maariv daily reported Tuesday that the government was considering banning private settler cars in Hebron and that the army would transport settlers instead in armoured vehicles.

The daily also said paratroop units were being transferred from duty in Lebanon to Hebron to protect settlers because of fears of Palestinian retaliation for the massacre.

The Palestinian witnesses were issued summonses by the army to appear before the commission, and the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) reportedly gave its approval. Earlier this month, Muslim officials responsible for the mosque refused to appear.

The army has said there was only one gunman and that all 110 bullets fired in the Muslim prayer area in the mosque came from the Galil automatic rifle belonging to Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein.

Uganda denies link with Israeli arms

KAMPALA (Agencies)

Uganda said on Tuesday it knew nothing about a mysterious plane load of Israeli weapons which Israel and Cyprus insisted were destined for the East African country.

"We have no knowledge of the arms," Hope Kivengere, press secretary of Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, told Reuters.

"We have no knowledge of the arms whatsoever. They must have been destined for elsewhere," added Roland Katunguka, spokesman for the ruling National Resistance Army (NRA) led by Mr. Museveni.

A Nigerian Boeing 707 carrying the weapons returned to Tel Aviv on Sunday, five days after it left Israel and became stranded in Cyprus when its pilot said he had to land to refuel and then announced he had engine trouble and could not leave.

Israeli army radio said the

weapons had returned to Israel a day after the Ugandan government-run New Vision newspaper quoted foreign and defence ministry officials as denying knowledge of the Israeli arms shipment.

The weapons returned to Israel a day after the Ugandan government-run New Vision newspaper quoted foreign and defence ministry officials as denying knowledge of the Israeli arms shipment.

"It's a deal between Israel military industries and Uganda," Oded Ben Ami, spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, had said. "It had all the permits... it's kosher."

In Cyprus, where diplomats were suspicious the arms were bound for another destination in Africa, Civil Aviation Director Michael Herodotu insisted

Cypriot authorities declined to give any details of the consignment. An official said on Friday a plane from Britain was due to arrive on the island from Britain that night to pick up the weapons.

It failed to arrive before the stranded plane flew back to Israel.

A Sudanese government official said in Nairobi last week he suspected the arms were destined for rebels in southern Sudan.

Uganda borders southern Sudan. Supplies for the rebels from the south, fighting rule from the north, have in the past passed through its territory.

Egypt had refused to let the Nigerian Boeing land on a flight from Tel Aviv to Entebbe and it flew to Cyprus.

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Palestinian businessmen set up \$100m company

By Mariam M. Shabir
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of over 60 Palestinian and Jordanian businessmen have founded an investment company with an initial capital of over \$100 million to jump-start the economy of the West Bank and Gaza even before Palestinian self-rule is implemented there.

Today the founders of the company, officially registered as an off-shore firm in Liberia due to the still lucid political conditions in the occupied territories, will elect their board of trustees at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The Palestine Company for Development and Investment (PCDI) is to be a public shareholding company which is founded by mostly millionaire Palestinian businessmen based in and outside the Arab World.

The founding members who spoke to the Jordan Times Tuesday asked to stay anonymous until after the board of trustees elections.

"After the elections most of

structure needed to upgrade the living and working conditions of the almost two million Palestinians living in the occupied territories in the next 10 years.

Addressing many in the occupied territories who fear an "economic takeover" by diaspora Palestinians once self-rule is implemented, company founders say the development projects will employ local expertise, labour and use locally-made building materials wherever available.

PCDI has three main "priority projects." The first is to build reasonably priced modern middle class housing projects throughout the West Bank, Gaza and possibly East Jerusalem.

The second most "urgent" objective is to build "heavy" industries. While investors who spoke to the Jordan Times declined to be specific, a cement plant was given as one possible example. The third most important objective is to build smaller self-sustaining industries.

Another "immediate pro-

ject" is to build a Palestinian stock market once that is set up in the occupied territories. An initial suggestion for the location of a Palestinian stock market has been Ramallah, Bethlehem or Nablus.

PCDI founders say the company will have several subsidiaries.

Major cities and towns in the occupied territories, for the "throngs of Palestinian and Arab visitors" that are expected to converge on the occupied territories in the near future.

PCDI has been years in the making. According to company sources, development projects funded and supported by the Geneva-based Welfare Association have been vigorously analysed to serve as a blue print for economic needs "large and small" in the occupied territories. But unlike the Welfare Association, which is a non-profit foundation for humanitarian and development assistance for Palestinians, PCDI is a large-scale business venture.

The company was officially registered in Liberia in October 1993 and will remain listed as an off-shore company until the political climate surrounding self-rule "stabilises," Mr. Masri said.

Company stocks will be listed in a Palestinian stock market once that is set up in the occupied territories. An initial suggestion for the location of a Palestinian stock market has been Ramallah, Bethlehem or Nablus.

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Major cities and towns in the occupied territories, for the "throngs of Palestinian and Arab visitors" that are expected to converge on the occupied territories in the near future.

More than half of PCDI shares (or 51 per cent) will be owned by people who live inside the occupied territories, Mr. Masri says. The rest will

Somalis fail again to agree on truce

NAIROBI (Agencies) — For the fourth time in three days, Somalia's faction leaders Tuesday postponed announcing plans to stop fighting and set up a new government in the lawless, war-torn country.

Somalia's principal warlords, Abi Mahdi Mohammad and General Mohammad Farah Aideed, and the leaders of 13 other factions were expected to declare a cease-fire and say who will rule the Horn of Africa country.

But U.N. officials said an hour before the planned announcement that the group was still locked in disagreement and that there would be a 24-hour delay. They already had postponed the announcement twice Sunday and once Monday.

The faction leaders have been meeting in Nairobi for more than a week with funding from the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia.

U.N. spokesman George Bennett said Monday that if the Somalis failed to reach agreement as promised Tuesday, "I don't think the U.N. is going to fund their stay for any longer in Nairobi." When the announcement was postponed from Tuesday to Wednesday, he said there were no major points still under negotiation.

"The Maariv daily reported Tuesday that the government was considering banning private settler cars in Hebron and that the army would transport settlers instead in armoured vehicles. The daily also said paratroop units were being transferred from duty in Lebanon to Hebron to protect settlers because of fears of Palestinian retaliation for the massacre.

"Last night there were three things remaining," Mr. Bennett said. "I don't think it should be very difficult for them to agree on them."

U.N. officials have declined to reveal details of the talks.

Gen. Aideed and Mr. Ali Mahdi are the main figures trying to take control of Somalia.

The United Nations also brokered a ceasefire in March 1992 after fighting between the two forces had destroyed three-quarters of the capital, Mogadishu, and killed up to 30,000 people.

The international community has feared that the country will revert to chaos after most Western forces withdraw from Somalia in the coming days.

Gen. Aideed and Mr. Ali Mahdi previously have announced separate plans to set up a transitional government after foreign troops leave.

The United Nations last May took over the peacekeeping mission. It began December 1992 when U.S.-led multinational forces arrived to stop the looting of relief food meant for hundreds of thousands of Somalis left to starve by the war and a drought.

But the humanitarian mission turned into a small war last June when Somali militiamen began killing peacekeepers they said were interfering in their country.

After 18 American soldiers died and 83 were wounded in an Oct. 3-4 battle with militiamen in Mogadishu, U.S. President Bill Clinton ordered the American withdrawal. Thirteen other nations followed.

Italian troops are leaving Mogadishu by ship this week, and the Americans will complete their withdrawal on Friday.

U.N. officials have declined to reveal details of the talks.

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